FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 MAY 1986

Israel

Thatcher Visit — Commenting on the results of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's 24-27 May visit to Israel, IDF radio said the major achievement is her consent to serve as a link between Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Arab leaders, notably Jordanian King Husayn. Thatcher stated in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem television that her talks with Peres were "excellent and very constructive," noting that their discussions were part of a continuous process of seeking negotiations on the Middle East problem and that she will meet with King Husayn when he visits London in 3 weeks time.

Thatcher also met with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who gave an "unequivocal and negative" reply to her proposal for free local elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, IDF radio reported, citing Rabin's statement that it would be "very strange" if the first free mayoral elections in the Arab world were held in the territories. In a banquet speech broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Thatcher urged Israel to do more to help the Palestinians play a greater role in managing their own affairs, stressing that the current situation in the occupied territories "can only be temporary" and that "practical steps" could be taken now as a prelude to an eventual settlement. Before concluding her visit, Thatcher also met with Palestinian dignitaries from the West Bank and Gaza who gave her a petition urging Britain to talk with the PLO, the radio reported. However, Thatcher stated at a news conference broadcast by the radio before her departure that the PLO's failure to recognize Israel and renounce terrorism makes it necessary to find "other Palestinian representatives who truly represent the Palestinian people." "We must consider an alternative" to the PLO, she said, adding that negotiations between King Husayn and Israel are impossible unless the latter is accompanied by people who are accepted as representing the Palestinian people. As for her forthcoming talks with Husayn, Thatcher said "we will have a lot to talk about" as a result of her visit to Israel.

Among the Arab commentaries criticizing Thatcher's visit, Damascus radio's Palestine broadcast urged Palestinians to refuse to meet with her, warning that those who do so will be viewed as "agents" and will only have themselves to blame when the Palestinian revolution carries out "the people's sentences" against them. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, however, stressed that the Palestinians meeting Thatcher would reaffirm their support for the PLO as their sole and legitimate representative. A PLO military spokesman cited by the radio claimed that a PLO combat group was responsible for planting three bombs which exploded in the Tel Aviv area 25 May. IDF radio confirmed that explosions took place in Ashqelon and Kefar Sava, noting that one person was slightly injured.

'Senior Official' Affair — The Inner Cabinet's failure to suspend a senior official who is under investigation for serious crimes has caused a "Constitutional crisis," *THE JERUSALEM POST* reported 26 May. The official in question is Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom, according to a U.S. television report cited by Jerusalem radio, which said the attorney general has concluded that Shalom and other Shin Bet officials should be charged with covering up the truth during investigations into the death of two terrorists who died in the custody of security forces 2 years ago. However, the Inner Cabinet has decided that launching an investigation into the affair will cause security damage, the radio subsequently disclosed, and Shalom is continuing in office for the time being.

Tabah Dispute — Israel has rejected a U.S. request to accept Egypt's formulation of the question to be presented to arbitrators on the Tabah issue, Jerusalem radio announced 25 May. Nevertheless, Egyptian sources cited by *THE JERUSALEM POST* stated that an end to the deadlock is "very close," indicating that Egypt has moved toward accepting one of the U.S. compromise proposals.

Syrian, Jordanian Diplomacy

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Greece 26 May at the start of an "official and cordial visit" aimed at promoting bilateral relations, Damascus radio reported, noting that the Syrian leader was "warmly welcomed" by Greek leaders. At a banquet speech broadcast by Damascus television, Al-Asad told his hosts that the U.S. "aggression" against Libya is a "serious phenomenon," adding that the United States and Israel will be "losing their senses" if they believe such methods will curb terrorism. Athens radio said Al-Asad will remain in Greece until 30 May and will discuss bilateral and international issues in talks with the president and prime minister.

In an earlier development, President al-Asad received Jordan's King Husayn in Damascus 24 May for talks on Mideast developments, according to Damascus radio. Amman radio said the Syrian and Jordanian leaders discussed the current Arab situation and bilateral relations, while an "informed source" cited by Radio Monte Carlo's Damascus correspondent described the meeting as "extremely important." After returning to Amman, King Husayn visited Baghdad 26 May for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Amman radio noted. Radio Monte Carlo reports from Amman viewed Husayn's talks with Al-Asad and Saddam Husayn as part of an attempt to ease Syrian-Iraqi tension, and QNA subsequently cited a Kuwaiti press report that King Husayn succeeded in persuading the Syrian and Iraqi presidents to agree to hold a summit meeting in Amman after 'Id al-Fitr. In Israel, "very reliable sources" cited by *THE JERUSALEM POST* contended that King Husayn's visit to Damascus was aimed at further isolating PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, asserting that Husayn's mediation between Syria and Iraq is intended to cut Iraqi support for 'Arafat.

As for Syrian-PLO relations, Egypt's *AL-AHRAM* stated that the Palestinian leadership possesses "full details" of a Syrian plot to assassinate 'Arafat, MENA reported.

In a separate development, Moscow radio announced that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will begin a working visit to the Soviet Union 27 May. Meanwhile, a Soviet official told KUNA that the United States will face "very grave consequences" if it or Israel strikes at Syria, warning that the Soviet Union will stand by Syria militarily and politically in the event of a U.S. or Israeli attack.

Libya

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev held talks with Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud in the Kremlin 27 May, TASS reported, noting that Jallud arrived in Moscow the previous day on a working visit. "Well-informed" Arab diplomatic sources cited by the Abu Dhabi paper *AL-ITTIHAD* claimed that Jallud's visit may result in an agreement on Libya's membership in the Warsaw Pact. In another report, "diplomatic sources" cited by the paper asserted that Jallud will sign a "huge" arms deal while in Moscow in response to the U.S. "aggression" against Libya, according to QNA. The paper disclosed that talks on such a deal took place during Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's last visit to Moscow, but were later discontinued.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio reported that Jallud and the head of Libyan intelligence are heading an operation collecting intelligence information "in preparation for attacks" on Israeli and U.S. targets in Europe.

Iran-Iraq War

Fighting in Hajj 'Umran, Mehran — An Iranian military report cited by Tehran radio claimed that Iranian troops advanced beyond Hajj 'Umran 15 km inside northern Iraq 22-23 May, killing or wounding over 800 Iraqis and downing two helicopters. On the other hand, an Iraqi communique asserted that Iraq's V Army Corps crushed an Iranian attack in the same sector 23 May. The communique also said that "confirmed" Iranian losses from the Iraqi thrust in the Mehran sector had reached 2,500 dead. Iraqi commanders cited by Voice of the Masses radio stated that Iraqi forces have occupied 290 sq km in the area and that they control Mehran and surrounding villages and mountains. Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i acknowledged in a Friday sermon reported by Tehran radio that the Iraqis had managed to "advance a few steps and capture the Mehran plain," but he rejected any notion of exchanging Mehran for Al-Faw, saying this is "most laughable" as there is "no comparison between the strategic Al-Faw and the little town of Mehran."

Air Attacks — An Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses announced that Iraqi planes raided Khark Island 25 May and hit a large maritime target in the Gulf late the previous night. An oil-laden Cypriot-registered tanker was hit and set on fire in the Iraqi attacks, according to a salvage company spokesman cited by AFP. Other Iraqi communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses reported Iraqi raids on oil pumping stations 24 May and on Iranian military camps 26 May, acknowledging the [illegible] of one Iraqi plane over Iran 26 May due to "technical reasons."

Iranian planes also raided Iraqi targets, according to military reports by Tehran radio and IRNA, which announced raids on military targets in Rawanduz 23 and 25 May, an attack on an Iraqi command center near Al-Kumayt 26 May, and raids on Iraqi power stations in Darband-i Khan and the Dukan area 25 and 27 May. IRNA claimed that Iraqi planes dropped chemical bombs in raids on the Mehran area.

Jordan

The opposition Jordanian National Movement issued a statement in Beirut accusing the Jordanian secret police of arresting and torturing soldiers who refused to carry out orders "to kill the sons of our people," AFP reported. The statement linked the purge with the recent unrest at Yarmuk University.

Egypt

The Supreme State Security Court sentenced 34 persons to jail terms of 1-3 years on charges relating to their involvement in a communist organization, MENA revealed 24 May. Charges that the defendants had formed a communist party were not proven, the court noted, but the defendants were punished in light of "verified evidence" that they were in possession of materials that would "incite hostility" to the regime.

Lebanon

Beirut Fighting — Amal and Palestinian gunmen continued fighting in Beirut 23-26 May, while intermittent artillery exchanges across the Muslim-Christian contact lines caused further casualties, according to reports by Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios. Beirut radio said a 26 May bomb explosion in the Al-Dawrah area killed two people and injured five. Lebanese Forces Executive Committee Chairman Samir Ja'ja' held Syrian intelligence responsible for the explosions in Christian areas and accused Syrian Vice President Khaddam of encouraging the escalation of violence, according to the Voice of Lebanon. Any attempt to find a political solution must begin with the removal of Syrian military and intelligence forces from Lebanon, Ja'ja' asserted.

As for the south, Beirut radio asserted that Israeli artillery shelled a village in the Bint Jubayl district 25 May, killing one man and injuring four other people. The Israeli-backed army of southern Lebanon had clashed with "terrorists" in the area the previous day, according to Jerusalem radio.

Hostages — Regarding the fate of U.S. and other foreign hostages in Lebanon, an anonymous caller claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad told the Voice of Lebanon that his organization will execute all the Americans, four French and one British hostage 27 May.

PLO in Tunisia

The PLO has informed Tunisia of the PLO's decision to end its military presence in Tunisia, 'Arafat stated in an interview with

Dubayy's *AL-BAYAN* cited by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio 23 May. However, the PLO still maintains its political and administrative presence in Tunis, the PLO leader noted.

Gulf Affairs

Qatar-Bahrain Dispute — According to "well-informed sources" in Manama cited by the Al-Shariqah paper *AL-KHALIJ* 26 May, the Bahraini and Qatari amirs have pledged to refrain from resorting to force as long as attempts are made to resolve the two countries' dispute. The sources revealed that Qatar will withdraw all of its forces from Fasht al-Dibal Island while the Bahraini presence on Hawar Islands will revert to the level prior to the eruption of the dispute.

A statement issued by the GCC Secretariat 25 May announced that the Supervisory and Monitoring Commission established to oversee the implementation of the agreement between the two sides commenced its work the same day. A 24 May WAKH report citing Abu Dhabi press reports said Qatar ended the "restriction" imposed on Fasht al-Dibal.

Somali President Hurt in Accident

Mogadishu radio cited a report 26 May that described President Muhammad Siad Barre's condition as "very good" following his involvement in a traffic accident 23 May outside Mogadishu. An earlier radio report revealed that Barre was transferred 24 May to a hospital in Saudi Arabia for "further medical investigation." Meanwhile, the clandestine Radio Halgan termed the situation in the capital as "very tense" following the accident, and asserted that extra troops have been sent into the city. The radio also claimed that "many" people were killed or wounded at the scene of Barre's accident when his security officers opened fire on the bus that had collided with the car in which the president was riding.

OPEC Affairs

Jeddah radio reported the conclusion of the 3-day meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Committee in charge of negotiating with non-OPEC oil producing nations in Al-Ta'if 25 May. The radio cited Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani's assertion that a "complete understanding" was achieved in general, and noted that the resolutions of the meeting would be forwarded to the next OPEC conference.

DRA-Pakistan

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan expressed satisfaction over the results thus far achieved in the indirect talks with Afghanistan in Geneva, Karachi radio reported. Khan disclosed that agreement was reached on some "important principles," but he noted that some "major" issues, including the timeframe of Soviet troop withdrawals from Afghanistan, still have to be negotiated. The UN secretary general's personal envoy to the talks, Diego Cordovez, noted "substantial progress" during the seventh round of indirect talks which concluded 23 May, and revealed that the two sides discussed the issue of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan for the first time, according to the radio.

In other developments, the radio noted that Pakistan lodged a "strong" protest with Afghanistan over further air and artillery attacks in border areas.

As for the DRA internal situation in the wake of Najibullah's accession to the post of PDPA general secretary, IRNA cited reports that supporters of Najibullah and DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium President Babrak Karmal clashed "last week" in Kabul following the arrests of PDPA officials Mahmud Barialay and Anahita Ratebzad. In other developments, a news conference in Kabul under BAKHTAR auspices cited by Moscow radio 24 May claimed that U.S. "Stinger" missiles already have been delivered to the Afghan "counterrevolutionary" camps in Pakistan according to DRA Aviation Minister Muhammad 'Aziz Negahban.

Regarding the political situation in Pakistan, Karachi radio announced that the National Assembly speaker was ousted from his post after losing a no-confidence vote 26 May by a wide margin.

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PLO Reportedly To End 'Military' Presence in Tunisia

GF231432 Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the PLO has decided to end Palestinian military presence in Tunisia and that it has handed a memorandun to Tunisian officials to this effect. In an interview published in Dubayy today, 'Arafat said that Palestinian political and administrative presence in Tunis still exists and is cordially welcomed by the Tunisian leadership.

Yasir 'Arafat also stressed the importance of holding an extraordinary Arab summit, indicating that the PLO has exerted efforts to hold the Arab summit for those who wish to attend. 'Arafat went on to say that there is an Israeli plan to drive a wedge between the PLO and a number of Arab countries.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Yasir 'Arafat emphasized that the PLO is continuing its efforts to end this war in accordance with a Palestinian plan, particularly since the activities of the Islamic committee, formed during the war between the two Muslim countries, have been frozen.

On the other hand, 'Arafat indicated that five Palestinian organizations expressed their unconditional approval to hold a dialogue in Algeria. He said that Algeria, in association with the other organizations, is trying to pave the way for holding this dialogue.

WAKH: 'Arafat Appoints New PLO Intelligence Head

GF270930 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] Dubayy, 27 May (WAKH) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in his capacity as commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has decided to appoint Brigadier General Fakhri Shaqqurah as head of Palestinian military intelligence and to appoint Brigadier General Musa 'Arafat as assistant head of Palestinian military intelligence.

The UAE newspaper *AL-BAYAN* reported today that Brig Gen Shaqqurah will thus succeed 'Atallah Abu al-Za'im who recently proclaimed his dissension and was consequently expelled from all his posts in the Palestinian revolution.

UAE Paper Interviews PLO's 'Arafat on Relations

GF241750 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 23 May 86 p 16

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, by *AL-BAYAN* correspondent Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Fathi al-Barqawi] Do you think that the PLO has offered all that it should offer for the sake of better relations with Syria?

[Yasir 'Arafat] Has Syria offered all that it should offer, within the context of pan-Arabism, in order to rectify its relationship with the PLO on the same level as it has done to rectify its relationship with the Phalangists in Lebanon or with Elie Hubayqah for example, with Amin al-Jumayyil, or even with King Husayn of Jordan? Syria so far has not offered anything.

[Al-Barqawi] What have the Palestinians offered?

['Arafat] Since the beginning of this year we have made an initiative to turn over a new leaf with the Syrian brothers and expressed willingness to start a dialogue with them on any level. Some dialogue took place with them and we made a decision to halt media campaigns. In addition I personally discovered Israel's predetermined plan to attack the Syrians, Lebanese, and Palestinians in Al-Biqa' in Lebanon. In this way we adopted a stand dictated to us by our pan-Arab duty. We differentiate between our differences within one Arab family and the confrontation of the mutual enemy who threatens the whole Arab nation.

[Al-Barqawi] So the Palestinian-Syrian dialogue, which was announced on numerous occasions, has had no results?

['Arafat] We have not reached positive results in our dialogue with the Syrians.

[Al-Barqawi] Palestinian relations with the USSR are important and effective. Recently brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] returned from Moscow. Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] is currently making a tour of the countries of Eastern Europe, where he has announced that he might visit Moscow. Is the purpose of these visits to pave the way for your expected visit to the Soviet capital?

['Arafat] When I recently met Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in East Berlin — the meeting was warm and friendly — he asserted to me his country's constant stand in supporting the just cause of the Palestinian people and said that he persistently supports our struggle. Comrade Gorbachev believes that peace may be achieved in the Middle East through an international conference attended by the countries which are permanent members of the UN Security Council and held under UN supervision with the participation of the PLO on an equal footing with the other parties.

Here I must point out that it was us who revealed the recent Israeli preparations to attack Lebanon. I informed the Soviet friends of the details of the Israeli plan and they immediately contacted the U.S. Administration in order to warn Israel against carrying out its aggression. I sent a message of thanks to the Soviet leadership through the Soviet ambassador in Tunis in which I stated that the Palestinian leadership will not forget this major Soviet stand.

Hence, Palestinian-Soviet relations are relations of which we are proud. The attempts which some people have made in order to create a gap in our relations with the USSR have failed.

[Al-Barqawi] These close and good relations — can they assist in improving relations with Syria?

['Arafat] According to my information the Soviets are making a special effort in this respect.

[Al-Barqawi] What about relations with Tunisia?

['Arafat] We shall always proudly remember the stand of the Tunisians and above all Habib Bourguiba. They embraced us, our problems and our troubles, after the departure from Beirut and Tripoli.

At our own initiative we have decided to end Palestinian military presence in Tunisia. Recently we handed over the camp which the brothers in Tunisia had given to us. The Palestinian political and administrative presence continues in Tunisia and is fully welcomed and loved by the Tunisian leaders.

[Al-Barqawi] You have addressed an appeal to the Iranians to stop the bloody fighting with Iraq. What happened in this regard?

['Arafat] I did not address an appeal. I addressed a message — in the form of an appeal to the Iranian leadership collectively — to the president, the Majlis, the Council of Experts, and to the Iranian people. I said to them that the war between the two Muslim peoples must stop, because the Muslim nation cannot bear it any more. I asked them to take a historic stand. I am following this matter with them, as part of a Palestinian step known as the peace offensive, so as to stop the fighting, particularly as the work of the Muslim committee that was set up to end the war has been frozen.

It is my duty not to remain idle while Muslim blood is being shed daily, so that [Muslims] can work for the liberation of Jerusalem. The brothers in Iraq have responded positively to all peace initiative by Muslims and nonaligned countries. However, the Iranian stand has remained the same.

[Al-Barqawi] Did the internal changes that occurred in the PDRY have any effect on Palestinian-PDRY relations?

['Arafat] There was some misunderstanding when we tried to participate in the attempt to stop the bloodshed during the events that occurred in the PDRY. In East Berlin I met with Brother 'Ali Salim Rubayi' who invited me to visit Aden. We are very anxious to see the interests of the PDRY and its people preserved. The PDRY never closed its doors to any Palestinian regardless of his views or political affiliation, and regardless of whether his passport was valid or had expired. Hence our initiative to serve the interests of the fraternal Yemeni people.

[Al-Barqawi] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has met with the French external affairs minister, and Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has met with the French interior minister. How far have Palestinian-French relations gone?

['Arafat] Our relations with France are special. We do not forget the assistance extended to us by the French forces in Beirut when we left the city in 1982. Also when we left Tripoli the French forces, together with the Egyptian brothers, helped in the evacuation. Our relations with France continue to improve with the new government headed by Jacques Chirac, a man who has adopted clear stands in support of Palestinian rights and our people's just cause.

[Al-Barqawi] It has been reported that changes were made in Fatah's structure: The Fatah Central Committee will be expanded to include 18 members and a five-man Political Bureau will be formed. Is this correct?

['Arafat] It is untrue. Perhaps some people meant the follow-up committee formed by the Fatah Revolutionary Council 6 months ago — the committee began its work in the past 2 months to follow up the implementation of the Revolutionary Council's decisions and to follow up work in all Fatah's apparatuses. It is the right of the Fatah Revolutionary Council — in the event a general congress is not convened — to set up such a committee and it has the right to suspend me if it wants to.

[Al-Barqawi] Why does the Fatah Congress not convene?

['Arafat] Tell me of a state that agrees to host such a congress. It is difficult enough to convene the PNC, which entails assembling a smaller number of people than those who would attend a Fatah congress, despite the fact that the PNC represents Palestinian legality in its entirety. You can imagine then how difficult it is to convene a congress of Fatah only.

Arab League Proposes Ministers' Meeting 23 June

GF261652 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 26 (WAKH) — Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, today received a memo from Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi in which he proposed a meeting of Arab foreign ministers to be held in Rabat on June 23 to prepare for an emergency summit.

Klibi said that the proposed date came after consultations between Morocco and some Arab countries. He asked 'Abdallah to give him his answer on the proposed date and the agenda of the conference.

The Arab foreign ministers at their meeting in Fes on April 30 entrusted the Arab League secretary general to make the proper contacts to prepare for a meeting of the Arab foreign ministers.

Arabs Said To Dissuade Al-Qadhdhafi From Warsaw Pact

GF251203 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
25 May 86 p 1

[Text] *AL-ITTIHAD* has learned from well-informed diplomatic Arab sources that several Arab countries have made endeavors to persuade the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi not to be too hasty in joining the Warsaw Pact. The sources said that several Arab countries have sent special envoys to the Libyan leader asking him not to embark on such a step because it would constitute a precedent for the Arab homeland since the collapse of the Baghdad Pact, the first foreign pact in which Arab states participated.

The sources asserted that the Libyan leader informed these Arab states that if no clear Arab stand is adopted in the face of U.S. threats against Libya then he will be compelled to join the Warsaw Pact. The sources said that Major 'Abd al-Salam Jalfiud's forthcoming visit to Moscow may result in the signing of an official agreement [on Libya joining the Warsaw Pact].

The sources said that recently Libya has received sophisticated military equipment from the Soviet Union, including anti-jamming radar. During the U.S. aggression on Tripoli and Banghazi on 15 April, U.S. aircraft sought to jam the Soviet-made radar in Libya which is manned by Syrian experts. The purpose of the technically sophisticated weapons is to prevent a surprise U.S. attack on Libya.

PLO's Qaddumi on U.S. 'Pressure' for Concessions

JN261916 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has stated that the United States is putting pressure on the PLO to make concessions in exchange for nothing. He added that the United States insists that we make concessions and recongize Israel and its right to exist, and that it also wants us to give up our rights. In an interview with the weekly magazine *AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI* published in Beirut on 24 May, Brother Abu al-Lutf said that the United States has stipulated three no's as a condition for holding a dialogue with the PLO: no to the right of self-determination, no to the Palestinian state, and no to the repatriation of refugees.

Brother Abu al-Lutf added that all the formulas we have submitted have not been meant for Jordan. He said: We offered these formulas to prove to Jordan and to the moderate Arab states which used to believe that there was a possibility for an agreement between the PLO and the United States that the latter is a state which is completely biased toward Israel and that it cannot be the friend of any Arab country, not just the Palestinian people.

Brother Abu al-Lutf said that through its so-called peace efforts in the Middle East, the United States sought to create differences among the Palestinians and between the Palestinians and Arab countries. The purpose of the U.S. political efforts had not been the establishment of a just and lasting peace or the settlement of the Palestinian cause, but further dividing Arab countries and creating problems between them and the PLO.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Brother Abu al-Lutf said that the PLO supports the Iraqi stand on the Gufl war. He said: We also support Iraq in its arduous struggle for safeguarding Iraqi territory. We support the heroic Iraqi Army which is defending its soil to prevent the establishment of another Israel.

PLO Radio Commentary on Thatcher Visit to Israel

JN251906 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1743 GMT 25 May 86

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers: Britain has a long history with the Palestinian people. The British have had a special effect on Palestinians. You just mention Britain and everyone remembers the British role which contributed more than any other side to establishing the Zionist entity in our country, Palestine.

The primary reason for the Zionist occupation is Britain. Therefore, what can Margaret Thatcher tell the Palestinians whom she will meet in the occupied land during her current visit to the enemy entity? What can she say while all Palestinians know full well the details of the British role in establishing the enemy entity in Palestine? It will never suffice for Palestinians for the British prime minister to make general statements about the need to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The Palestinian people will never be satisfied with Margaret Thatcher's regret over the failure of all peace initiatives in the region as she said yesterday while leaving for Tel Aviv. The Palestinian people will not be satisfied with this regret. This regret does not concern them. They know that Thatcher has in this or that way contributed to the failure of the major move toward peace in the region when she refused to receive the Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation unless it approved preconditions, chief of which was the recognition of UN Security Council Resolution 242 which cancels all the Palestinian people's rights, foremost being the right to self-determination.

What can Thatcher tell Palestinians in the occupied territory? We may not know what she will say or claim before Palestinians regarding peace and the Palestinian people's right to self- determination, however, we know what Palestinians will say to the British prime minister. We know exactly what they will say. They will say the PLO is our sole and legitimate representative, that we will never relinquish our rights to repatriation and self-determination, and that we want nothing less than an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. This is what the Palestinians will say to Margaret Thatcher. So, what can she say or do?

Reaction to Thatcher's Speech Reported

NC261434 Paris AFP in English 1415 GMT 26 May 86

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, May 26 (AFP) — Israel defense minister Monday reacted cooly to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's urging Israel to improve the lot of Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied territories, while most Palestinian leaders welcomed her remarks.

Mrs Thatcher, in her first official speech Sunday, had asked Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres for immediate humanitarian and political measures in favor of the 1.3 million Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied territories.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, after meeting with Mrs Thatcher Monday morning, told newsmen her idea was "strange" in view of the fact that there was "not a single elected mayor in any Arab country."

Mrs Thatcher will host a dinner Tuesday at the British Consulate in Jerusalem where the deposed mayors of Hebron and Gaza, Mustafa al-Natshah and Rashad al-Shawwa, will be among the guests, as well as seven other mostly pro-PLO Palestinians.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, also among those invited, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Mrs Thatcher's remarks were positive. So did Mr Al-Shawwa, who added: "Our objective is clear: the end of occupation."

However Hanna Siniora, editor-in-chief of *AL FAJR* newspaper and the Palestinian delegate for the joint PLO-Jordanian peace initiative that fell through earlier this year, said that Mrs Thatcher's remarks were "interesting," but her not mentioning the PLO was "distressing," he added.

Mr Siniora added that he would tell Mrs Thatcher of "our will to see the principle of Palestinian self-determination respected with the PLO as its only representative at an international peace conference."

PLO Statement Calls for End to Amal Attacks on Camps

JN241807 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1719 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] The PLO issued an appeal today for a stop to attacks on the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. In a statement issued in Tunis, the PLO called on the Arab countries to stop this new conspiracy against the Palestinian people and their camps in Lebanon, a conspiracy that is considered part of a bloody plot being implemented in Lebanon against the Palestinian and Lebanese citizens and in which some Arab sides are participating.

The statement, which was distributed by the PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, pointed to Nabih Birri's Amal Gangs' attacks on the Burj al-Barajinah camp in Beirut yesterday. The statement stressed that after the attacks were repulsed, the agent Amal gangs expanded their aggression against the Sabra and Shatila camps.

Further on 'Indiscriminate Shelling'

JN261930 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1715 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] A Palestinian military spokesman from the steadfast Palestinian camps in West Beirut has stated that Palestinian fighters continue to exercise self-restraint and the policy of limited reply to the Amal Movement's continued attacks. The Palestinian military spokesman said that Nabih Birri's Amal militias resumed their shelling of the Palestinian camps at 1000 this morning using 120-mm guns while the Amal Movement miltias continued to impose a siege on the Palestinian camps. The spokesman explained that there had been fighting near Burj al-Barajinah camp since this morning which later developed into artillery shelling from 60-mm, 28-mm and 120-mm guns on all parts of the camp.

Following indiscriminate shelling by the Amal Movement of Burj al-Barajinah which lasted more than 1 hour, a cease-fire was reached. However, the Amal Movement violated the cease- fire and shelled the camp with 120-mm guns. The shelling of the three Palestinian camps continues unabated as this report was being prepared.

'Combat Group' Plants Explosives in Tel Aviv

JN251831 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1714 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution General Command has stated the following:

One of our combat groups operating inside the occupied homeland has planted three explosive charges inside and around Tel Aviv. The three Palestinian charges went off this morning. The first charge went off in a bus station in Kafr Saba east of Tel Aiv. The second charge exploded in an occupation forces' center in Tel Aviv. The third charge exploded at a bus stop at a crossroads in the city of Ashqelon, south of Tel Aviv.

The explosion of the three Palestinian charges caused heavy material damage to enemy targets and centers, destroyed several Zionist buses, and killed or wounded a large number of Zionist enemy personnel. Zionist security forces rushed to the cities, besieged them, launched a large-scale search campaign, and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of connection with the explosions. Our combat group left the operation areas successfuly. Revolution until victory.

[Signed] The Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command

Joint Forces Shell Upper Galilee With Katyushas

JN251920 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1714 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] The Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces used Katyushas yesterday to shell Zionist forces' camps and positions in the Upper Galilee in northern occupied Palestine. The Katyushas hit their targets accurately, caused fires in these camps and positions, destroyed or damaged a number of military vehicles, and killed or wounded a number of Zionist personnel.

The joint forces also attacked with rockets and machineguns two joint positions belonging to the occupation forces and their agent militias in the occupied border strip area. The attack caused heavy damage to the two positions and killed or wounded several Zionist and agent elements.

Palestinian Group Attacks Israeli Vehicle

GF231940 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1800 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] A Palestinian military spokesman has announced that a Zionist soldier was wounded and a military vehicle severely damaged in an attack carried out by a group belonging to the Palestinian Revolution Forces operating inside the occupied homeland.

In a statement distributed by WAFA in Tunis, the spokesman said the attack which was carried out by the Martyr Mahir

(?al-Burni) group with incendiary bombs took place the day before yesterday near Al-Falujah school in Jabaliyah camp. The spokesman affirmed that the members of the group returned safely to base although the area was cordoned off after the operation and a campaign of arrests was launched by the Zionist forces which was directed at scores of Palestinian citizens.

Joint Forces Attack Lahd Militias in S. Lebanon

JN231819 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1715 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] The men of the Palestinian-Nationalist Lebanese joint forces launched a rocket and machinegun attack against a military position of the agent Lahd militias in (Tallat al-Suwayda') in the western sector of southern Lebanon at dawn today.

The attack severely damaged the position and either killed or wounded many agent soldiers.

The joint forces also clashed with the agent Lahd militias in the hills of the township of Hula in the central sector of southern Lebanon at dawn today. There were many casualties among the agent militias.

BAHRAIN

Reports on Resolution of Fasht al-Dibal Dispute

Amir Receives Message From King Fahd
GF231620 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Manama, 23 May (WAKH) — H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received here today Saudi Education Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir who delivered H.H. the amir a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia concerning bilateral relations and ways of boosting them. The audience was attended by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad as well as the Saudi Charge d'Affaires Mamud ibn Nadir. The Saudi envoy arrived here today from Qatar where he delivered a similar message to H.H. the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani from the Saudi monarch.

GCC Officials Arrive for Talks
GF240743 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0735 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Manama, 24 May (WAKH) — 'Abdallah Bisharah, GCC secretary general, and Major General Yusuf Muhammad al-Madani, chairman of the military committee at the GCC Secretariat, arrived in Manama last night on a visit to Bahrain. The visit is in implementation of the proposals of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia on the Bahraini-Qatari dispute.

Qatar Withdraws Military
GF240928 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 May (WAKH) — Press reports in Abu Dhabi said today that the State of Qatar has actually ended the restriction imposed on the Fasht al-Dibal island and has withdrawn its military reinforcements which it set up on its western coast. The newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* reports that two military committees — charged with supervising the implementation of the agreement to end the dispute and to revent the situation to its state before 26 April — will arrive in Qatar and Bahrain today. Each includes six military observers from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Oman. *AL-ITTIHAD* says that the agreement, which will be implemented in 1-2 weeks, includes the withdrawal of Qatari forces from Fasht al-Dibal. It is expected that discussion of the island border post on which work was in progress will be postponed for future negotiations.

Paper Praises Saudi King, GCC
GF251054 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0705 GMT 25 May 86

[From the press review]

[Text] The Bahraini newspaper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* asserts that the goodwill role played by His Majesty King Fahd ibn Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia has had a major effect on the settlement of the Fasht al-Dibal dispute and the quick attainment of a solution for it. The paper says that this goodwill role is not something new to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has often played similar roles on the Arab arena, and constitutes a new addition to the Kingdom's large credit in working toward the resolution of Arab differences and uniting Arab ranks. The paper expresses appreciation for the efforts and moves made by other fraternal GCC countries in their quest to restore matters to normal in the region. *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* expresses to the sons of the Gulf its profound satisfaction at the resolution of the dispute and the return of a normal atmosphere to the region which prevents any negative results which might have happened if the dispute had remained without a solution.

GCC Begins Work on Dispute
GF251107 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Riyadh, 25 May (WAKH) — The GCC Secretariat today announced that in accordance witha the agreement reached between the State of Qatar and the State of Bahrain, the supervision and monitoring commission — which comprises members from the GCC secretariat, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman, and the UAE — has left for both Qatar and Bahrain to begin implementing the task with which it has been charged to restore the situation that previously existed. A statement issued by the GCC Secretariat says that the commission has begun discharging its duties as of today and is headed by Major General Sa'd al-Muwayni'. The GCC Secretariat expresses the hope that the supervision and monitoring commission will complete its work at the earliest time possible and that its efforts will be successful. The statement pays tribute to the efforts made by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia and the leaders of the GCC states to consolidate the march of cohesion and common destiny.

Following is the text of the statement:

In accordance with the agreement reached between the State of Qatar and the State of Bahrain to restore the status quo ante — an agreement that has been reached through the good and generous efforts of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and thanks to the anxiousness of their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC states to consolidate the march of cohesion and common destiny, and in response to the good intentioned guidance in this blessed month [of Ramadan] — the supervision and monitoring commission which comprises [members from] the GCC Secretariat, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman, and the UAE, and is headed by Major General Sa'd al-Muwayni', has left for both Qatar and Bahrain to begin implementing the task with which it has been charged. The commission immediately began its work as of Sunday 17 Ramadan 1406 Hegira corresponding to 25 May 1986. The GCC Secretariat hopes that the supervision and monitoring commission will complete its work at the earliest time possible and asks Almighty God to make its efforts successful.

Further Details

LD261406 Kuwait KUNA in English 1255 GMT 26 May 86

[Excerpt] Kuwait, May 26 (KUNA) — Deputy premier and foreign minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir met here Monday with Bahrain's Ambassador to Kuwait 'Abd-al 'Aziz 'Abd-al Rahman Abu 'Ali. Shaykh Sabah told reporters, after the meeting, that the ambassador conveyed to him details of the agreement reached between Bahrain and Qatar to end their differences over the disputed island of Fasht al-Dibal.

Shaykh Sabah said that King Fahd, envoy's education minister Shaykh 'Abd al 'Aziz (al-Khuwaiter) has visited Kuwait last Friday and delivered to H.H. the Amir a message including items of the agreement. [sentence as received] A special committee from the GCC secretariat including representatives from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Oman began Saturday implementing the agreement which includes among other items that the situation in the island returns to normal as prior to the dispute. Shaykh Sabah expressed hope in implementing the agreement and ending the dispute between the two sisterly states within this week.

Dismissed Workers To Receive Aid

GF261517 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 26 May 86 p 1

[Text] *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* learned that Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah has issued his instructions to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to make a list of all Bahraini workers who were dismissed in Qatar and to make an effort to employ them in the state, public, or private sectors as soon as possible.

The prime minister urged the ministry to look into the special social conditions of the Bahraini families affected by the recent measures in Qatar and to find the best means to help those families.

Amirs Agree Not To Resort to Force

GF261932 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 26 May 86 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] Well-informed sources in Manama told *AL-KHALIJ* that the task of the supervising and monitoring committee is an initial part of the mediation efforts exerted by Saudi Arabia, while the role of the GCC General Secretariat and the other Gulf countries is to supervise these efforts.

Sources report that Fasht al-Dibal will be left empty after the withdrawal of the Qataris, while the Bahraini presence on the Hawar Islands will be the same size as before the eruption of the crisis.

The sources added that the agreement approved by the amirs of Bahrain and Qatar was to restore the situation to as it was before 26 April and a pledge in writing that they will not resort to force on military operations again as long as efforts are being exerted to achieve a solution to satisfy both sides.

AL-KHALIJ has also learned that after the supervising and monitoring committee completes its task, all of the border disputes between Bahrain and Qatar will be looked into within a legal and historic framework, as the two sides will submit all of their documents and evidence on their rights to the disputed regions.

Well-informed sources in Riyadh told *AL-KHALIJ* that the dispute will not be suspended this time, as was the case previously, particularly since the Qataris insist on finally settling the issue.

Gulf sources indicated that the two countries' agreement to restore the previous status quo means Qatar will cancel its decision which declared the region of Fasht al-Dibal and Hawar Island as restricted naval and air zones. The two countries have agreed to reopen the waters and air space for commercial and civil trips after the elimination of tension and troop concentrations in those regions.

AL-KHALIJ has learned that no symbolic Gulf forces will be stationed at Fasht al-Dibal following the withdrawal of the Qataris, especially since they have promised not to repeat the incident and agreed to restore the situation to as it was before 26 April.

The sources also noted that news reports about a possible meeting in Riyadh between the foreign ministers of the two countries are baseless. The two sides will wait for the next Saudi step within the framework of the goodwill efforts.

A Bahraini official told *AL-KHALIJ* that Bahrain's calm policy toward the crisis and its firm desire to avoid repercussions helped a great deal in reaching the agreement. The official expressed the belief that there are those who want to fish in muddy waters and exploit the tension in the two countries' relations. The official did not rule out a relapse in mediation efforts as a result of this.

KUWAIT

Radiation Contaminated Turkish Products Confiscated

GF271359 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 May 86 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] Informed sources have told *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* that the concerned authorities at the border checkpoints have confiscated large quantities of radiation contaminated food products imported from Turkey. The Turkish Embassy withheld the news and did not want to reveal the quantities of food products confiscated in Kuwait and the Gulf countries for economic and tourism reasons.

Saudi Envoy Hands Amir Message From King Fahd

LD231729 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Kuwait, 23 May (KUNA) — This afternoon a Saudi Royal Envoy, the minister of education Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz alKhuwaytir, met with the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and conveyed to him a message from the Saudi Sovereign King

Fahd ibn 'abd al-'Aziz. The contents of the message were not officially disclosed; however, they are believed to be related to the good-offices which have been made in order to put an end to the Qatar -Bahrain dispute about the Fasht al-Dibal island. The Saudi sovereign has recently stated that a settlement of the Qatar-Bahrain dispute has been reached. The Saudi Envoy had visited both Doha and al-Manama, before visiting Kuwait, and he conveyed to both the Amir of Qatar, and the Amir of Bahrain a message from King Fahd.

OMAN

Sultan Receives Qatari, Saudi Ministers, Messages

GF241836 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received a written message from Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani during his meeting today with Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs. The meeting was attended by Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Qatari ambassador to the Sultanate. His majesty also received a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia during his meeting with Saudi Education Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir. The meeting was attended by Yahya Mahfuz al-Mundhuri, minister of education and youth affairs; Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Saudi ambassador to the sultanate. His majesty the sultan also received Sa'id Ahmad al-Shanfari, minister of petroleum and minerals.

Ministers Conclude Visit

GF241950 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 May 86

[Text]Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs; and 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, Saudi education minister, left the country today after meeting with His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and delivering to him messages from Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al Thani and His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. They were seen off by Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Yahya Mahfuz al-Mundhuri, minister of education and youth affairs.

QATAR

Saudi Minister Delivers Fahd Message to Qatari Amir

GF230932 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0922 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Doha, 23 May (WAKH) — Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, has received a written message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The message was delivered by Saudi Education Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir when the amir of Qatar received him today. Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister; Education Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Hamad Al Thani; and 'Abd al-Muhsin Salman al-Zayd, Saudi ambassador to Qatar, attended the meeting. QNA reported that the message dealt with current developments in the Gulf and relations between the two fraternal countries. The Saudi minister arrived in Doha today on a brief visit to Qatar.

Foreign Minister To Deliver Messages to Oman, UAE

GF240931 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0905 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Doha, 24 May (WAKH) — Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, left for Muscat this morning on a visit to Oman to be followed by a visit to the UAE. QNA reports that during this visit, the Qatari minister will deliver two messages from His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, to his Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman and UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on Gulf developments.

Minister Returns From UAE, Oman

GF250706 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Doha, 24 May (WAKH) — Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Doha tonight from Abu Dhabi following a visit which also included Oman. Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani delivered written message from His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman and His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE. The messages deal with developments in the Gulf.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Paper Discusses Arms Purchasing Policy

PM270840 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 22 May 86 p 3

[Editorial: "The National Will's Decision"]

[Text] When the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia decided to withdraw its request to obtain missiles as part of the arms deal with the United States it reaffirmed by this attitude and by this timing the following important principles: First, that it can secure its requirements for arms and equipment from any place and under the best conditions.

Second, that it does not wish its legitimate request [for arms] to become a liability for any party and thus provide an opportunity for certain parties that are trying by all means possible to exploit the situation to serve their own ends and private interests as the Zionist lobby is doing inside the friendly United States.

Third, as far as we in this country are concerned the question of arms is a matter of national will and freedom of choice which under no circumstances will we allow to be subjected to extortion by any party, regardless of its character or motive.

For this reason we are free to choose the time of the purchase and the type of arms we want as well as to choose the time and place we believe are suitable for acquiring any kind of weapons of which we are actually in need.

Fourth, weapons of any kind or range, as we have always asserted and reassert again, will remain under the control and in the hands of Saudi national personnel that are anxious to use them for the protection of this homeland and its gains, strengthening its national will, and upholding its positive Arab and Islamic role of serving security and stability that always create better opportunities for life and coexistence.

When we make such a decision we act consciously and with wisdom in that we are capable of utilizing a broad base of friendships and good relations with many internaional parties that are anxious to preserve the common interests and appreciate our stands.

By adopting this stand, through which we are seeking to protect and reaffirm the national will as well as freedom of choice, we are not putting ourselves in a dead end. We have the ability to move freely to secure our arms and defense requirements on the basis of diversification of arms resources. We also pay in cash for whatever we buy and obtain loans from nobody.

We also believe in the legitimacy of our demands and in the need to secure our actual needs for arms and also in our ability to obtain them from any source and under the best terms and conditions with total freedom of timing and choice of weapons.

By taking such a studied step we are proving that we are capable of obtaining all the arms and equipment we need for defending this homeland, protecting the holy places and national gains, and enhancing the positive and beneficial role we are playing to serve security and stability at both the Arab and Islamic levels.

Just as we defend our national will and total freedom of choice and refuse to allow them to be subjected to extortion by any party regardless of its motives or identity, at the same time we do not interfere in the affairs of others or wish to cause our legitimate national demand to become a burden on any party.

Freedom of choice coupled with national will and our well-known positive stands to ensure security and stability in the region always provide us with great maneuverability to obtain arms and equipment in accordance with our actual needs from friendly countries and in accordance with our studied plans to develop our defense capabilities and provide our forces with the best means to defend this country's safety, security and stability as well as its holy places, gains, and achievements.

We are waiting to see where the maneuvers by those who are seeking benefits from opposing every development in the ideal relations between the United States and countries of the area will lead.

We will see if those people will preserve the U.S. interests or sacrifice them for the sake of Israel and so undermine its positive efforts to gain credibility and intensify practical efforts to ensure security and peace in the region.

The Zionist lobby that is suspiciously active both inside and outside the United States is not only undermining the United States' standing and prestige abroad but is also seeking to weaken its economic capabilities by causing the U.S. economy to lose millions of dollars and seriously jeopardizing other trade deals just as it has jeopardized the arms deal. Therefore, the important question that we do not think any of them dares to answer is as follows: In whose interest is this being done? Is it in the interest of the United States, which has given them life and the freedom to act as American citizens, or to Israel, which has nurtured in them racism and bigotry and sought to buy their loyalty and affiliation even at the expense of loyalty to their own country?

Somali President's General Condition 'Reassuring'

GF252051 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] No sooner had His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz heard — during a telephone call from Mogadishu, concerning the car accident His Excellency Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre was subjected to 2 days ago as a result of poor weather, than he issued an order to His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, to provide the necessary medical care to his excellency at the highest levels available in the Kingdom.

In implementation of the noble instruction, one of the Royal Air Force flying hospitals equipped with the most modern medical equipment and carrying five of the most skilled specialist doctors, took off to carry his highness to the Kingdom. His excellency the Somali president and his escorts arrived at the King Khalid International Airport at 2000 yesterday, from which he left immediately surrounded by all means of medical care for the military hospital in Riyadh to begin medical tests and treatment. Initial medical reports indicate that the health of his excellency does not call for concern and that his general condition is reassuring.

On behalf of His Majesty the king, His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of Riyadh, visited His Excellency Mohamed Siad Barre yesterday evening. He conveyed the greetings of his majesty and was assured of the process of the president's treatment. The Somali Information and National Guidance Minister, Mohamed Omar, expressed to SPA correspondent the president's deep gratitude to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the Saudi Government for the immediate and noble response and for the excellent medical treatment his excellency has received since his arrival. The minister stated that this is good proof of the sincere Arab stance the Kingdom adopts toward fraternal brethren in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

King Fahd Sends Message to Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar

LD232129 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] His highness Shaykh Jabir Al-Ahmad, Amir of Kuwait, received a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz concerning the fraternal relations between the two sister countries and the means of their development in the various fields and the current developments in the Gulf. The message was delivered by His Excellency the Minister of Education, Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, when he was recieved by Shaykh Jabir this evening in the presence of the Kuwaiti minister of education, Hasan Ali Ibrahim.

His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn Solman al-Khalifah, Amir of Bahrain, received a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz concerning the fraternal relations between the sister countries and the means of their development in all fields and the current developments in the Gulf. The message was delivered by His Excellency the minister of education, Dr 'Abd Al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir when His Highness Shaykh 'Isa received him at noon today in the presence of the Bahraini foreign minister, Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Mubarak Al-Khalifah, and the interior minister, Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Khalifah. Also the meeting was attended by the minister of information, Tariq al-Mua'yid, and the Kingdom's charge d'affaires in Manama. The minister of education had arrived earlier from Doha where he delivered a similar message to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Hamad Al-Thani, amir of sisterly Qatar.

Fahd Receives Messages From Various Leaders

LD242219 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 May 86

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has received Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Husayn al-Ahmar, member of the YAR Consultative Council. His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received a message from his highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan, the UAE president. The message was conveyed by the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, rashid 'Abdallah when he was audianced by His Majesty this evening at His Majesty's office in Al-Safa Palace.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; and by Minister of State and member of the Council of Ministers Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud. His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, the Sultan of oman received a message from his brother His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz concerning coordination in the various fields among the GCC countries and issues of mutual interest. The Sultan of Oman received the message earlier today when he audianced the minister of education, 'Abd al'-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, who is currently visiting the region. His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received a message from senegalese president abdou Diouf. The message was conveyed by Mr (Hamadou Mbaki Fay), the envoy of the Senegalese president, when he was audienced this evening by His Majesty at his office in Al-Safa Palace.

UAE Foreign Minister Arrives in Jeddah

GF241508 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1455 GMT 24 May 86

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 14 May (SPA) — Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Jeddah this evening on a visit to the kingdom.

UAE

Radiation Contaminated Milk Discovered in Abu Dhabi

GF271255 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1158 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 May (WAKH) — Abu Dhabi Municipality in the UAE has destroyed a large quantity of liquid milk recently imported from Belgium after discovering a level of radiation exceeding the internationally approved limit. This was announced by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Butti, representative of the ruler in the Western Region and head of the Municipality and Works Departments, after he received the municipality's central laboratory report which indicated following thorough analysis that the milk is contaminated.

In a statement to WAM, Shaykh Muhammad said that Abu Dhabi Municipality is in constant touch with the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna and the pollution monitoring center in Copenhagen to keep track of the internationally permitted contamination levels. The radiation level in this consignment of milk was confirmed to exceed the internationally acceptable level, he added. Shaykh Muhammad ibn Butti stated that the municipality has taken all measures necessary to dispose of this consignment and that the municipality maintains strict control over the UAE entry points. He added that the consignment was checked in the presence of the importing company agent and the customs and port authorities. He also noted that the milk consignment was discovered in Zayid Port by recently acquired detection equipment.

Qatari Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

GF240520 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1940 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 May (WAKH) — Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Muscat today on a brief visit to the UAE. During this visit, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani will deliver a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani on the recent developments of the situation on the Gulf arena. The Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs earlier today delivered a smimilar message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman.

Further Reportage on Tabah Talks With Israel

'Abd al-Majid, Sofaer Confer

NC241031 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Abraham Sofaer, head of the U.S. delegation to the Tabah talks, this morning. They reviewed the results of the latest round of talks, held in Israel last week, and discussed preparations for the next round. Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, head of the Egyptian delegation to the talks, was also present. Following the meeting, 'Abd al-Majid said that he and Sofaer had considered a number of topics related to the Tabah problem and the outcome of the recent round of talks. He said that he would meet with the head of the U.S. delegation again, and added that the date of the next round of talks would be set today or tomorrow. Meanwhile, the Egyptian and U.S. delegations met to complete their discussion of all points pertaining to a solution of the Tabah problem.

'Abd al-Majid, Sofaer Confer Again

NC251420 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Abraham Sofaer, U.S. State department legal adviser and head of the U.S. delegation to the Tabah talks, the last round of which ended in Herzliyya on Thursday. The 90-minute meeting was attended by members of the U.S. delegation and Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, director of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's legal department and head of the Egyptian delegation to the talks.

Following the meeting, Sofaer said that no definite results have been reached yet. He added: As I said yesterday, there is no ready-made solution or ready-made formula, but we are working together to overcome the obstacles and bridge the positions of Egypt and Israel. I hope we will help the two countries to agree on arbitration and to solve the problem. Sofaer said that he will meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid again tomorrow. Meanwhile, the Egyptian and U.S. delegations to the Tabah talks have continued their discussion of topics pertaining to arbitral compromis, especially the main point, which concerns the question that will be put to the arbitrators. These talks, which have been going on since yesterday, were led by Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi and Abraham Sofaer.

Egypt, U.S. Delegations Continue Talks

NC261515 Cairo MENA in English 1449 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Cairo, May 26 (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy premier and foreign minister, conferred here today with Abraham Sofaer, legal adviser of the U.S. State Department who is also chairman of the US delegation to the Tabah talks. The talks will also deal with issues relations to terms of arbitration namely the wording of the question to be referred to the arbitrators. Meanwhile, talks were resumed for the third successive day between the Egyptian and the American sides to the Tabah talks with Dr Nabil al-'Arabi leading the Egyptian side but no concrete results were reached up til now. It is also expected that 'Abd al-Majid meets tomorrow with Sofaer.

'Abd al-Majid Statement Cited

NC251147 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1043 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, made a statement to newsmen today after his meeting with President Husni Mubarak. He stressed that Egypt's position on the arbitration of the Tabah problem is very strong, and that this was based on documents, maps, and legal evidence. For this reason, he added, we declare that Tabah is 100 percent Egyptian. When asked if anything new had emerged during the latest round of Tabah talks, 'Abd al-Majid replied: We move with firm and precise steps on this issue, and specify both the situation and the results exactly. As to whether he will meet with Abraham Sofaer, the U.S. State Department's legal adviser, 'Abd al-Majid noted: I will meet with him today, and if there is a need for any further meetings, they will be held.

Regarding the statement by the former mayor of Gaza, Rashad al-Shawwa, who said there have been talks on placing the Gaza Strip under Egyptian administration, Dr 'Abd al-Majid explained that Cairo's position on questions related to the West Bank and Gaza Strip emphasizes the necessity of consultations with its Palestinian and Jordanian brothers. This is Egypt's clear policy, as consultations are required. We would, he said, welcome any agreement of views on this. In response to a question on contacts with the Iraqi Government concerning its decision to execute a number of Egyptians, 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that some very important moves are underway on this. He added that he will be going to Baghdad in the next few days for this purpose.

'Abd al-Majid To Pay Official Visit to Iraq

NC251901 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will pay an official visit to Iraq next week at the invitation of Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. Dr 'Abd al-Majid said his talks with Iraqi officials will deal with issues of mutual concern, the current situation in the region, and preparation for a non-aligned summit conference, scheduled to be held in Zimbabwe in August.

Mubarak Declines Participation in Lebanese Force

NC270837 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 23 May p 9

[Text] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak handed Muhammad Shuqayr, emissary from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, a written message for President Al-Jumayyil yesterday responding to the latter's request that Egypt take part in an Arab security force whose responsibility would be to secure peace in Lebanon.

Mubarak's meeting with Shuqayr was attended by Usamah al-Baz, president Mubarak's political adviser, and by Egyptian Defense Minister Muhammad 'Abd Al-Halim Abu Ghazalah.

AL-SAFIR has learned that Al-Baz told Shuqayr that Egypt is not in favor of its forces' participation in the proposed Arab security force "because this might further complicate the problem, rather than solving it." Al-Baz mentioned that should Syria decide not to pull its forces out of Lebanon following the creation of the proposed force, a military confrontation with Syria might ensue. Egypt, Al-Baz said, wants to spare Lebanon the consequences of this possibility.

Al-Baz also pointed out that Egypt is committed in principle to the deployment of its troops only within its own borders. Al-Baz met with Shuqayr prior to their combined meeting with Mubarak.

'Abd al-Majid Meets Sudanese Foreign Minister

NC230948 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Al-Sharif al-Hini, Sudan's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, left Cairo for New York this morning to lead his country's delegation to the Special UN General Assembly session scheduled to begin on Tuesay. The meeting will be devoted to a discussion of the economic crisis facing African states. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held talks with Al-Hindi at Cairo Airport this morning on bilateral relations.

Oil Production Cut of Six Million Tons Planned

NC250455 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA) — In a move to confront the fall in world oil prices, Egypt has decided to slash its oil exports by 6 million tons during fiscal year 1986/87. In its issue appearing tomorrow, the newspaper *AL-AHRAM* says that more crude oil will be turned over to refineries to provide for the needs of the local market. New investments in the oil and mineral resources sectors will amount to 261 million Egyptian pounds. According to the oil sector plan, the paper writes, 44.2 million tons of oil will be produced in 1986/87, compared to previous estimates of 50.3 million tons. The move was taken to cope with current conditions in the world oil market and the need to restrict production in the face of the continued decline in oil prices. Foreign currency revenues from oil have decreased by 38.8 percent due to the drop in world prices.

Government Said Removing Religious Sympathizers

NC270751 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 23 May 86 p 1

[Report by Amin Radwan from Cairo]

[Text] The Egyptian Government has been waging a campaign of late to curb the activities of Islamic groups, particularly in the army, the police, and other governmental departments.

A government committee has entrusted the defense minister with the task of removing those officers and soldiers who are known for their religious activities from sensitive positions in the armed forces, and of placing them under strict surveillance, the effect being to hinder their movements.

The committee, which met the day before yesterday, decided to hold weekly meetings in secrecy. It also tasked the awqaf minister to conduct a full survey of mosque imams who are suspected of membership in Islamic groups and to remove those who hold such membership from their posts. In addition, mosques under private administration will be brought under the administration of the Awqaf Ministry, and all mosques will be closed except during times of prayer.

Finally, the committee asked the information minister to transfer members and sympathyzers of religious groups who work in the media into administrative jobs.

Court Issues Verdicts in Cases Against Communists

NC241250 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA) — The Supreme State Security Court issued its verdicts today in two cases involving the Egyptian Communist Organization [Al-Tanzim al-Sinuyu'i al-Misri]. In case No. 632 for the year 1979, the court sentenced two defendants to 3 years imprisonment, seven defendants to 2 years imprisonment, and three defendants to 1 year imprisonment. Another 18 accused were acquitted.

In case no. 207 for the year 1981 involving 47 defendants, the court sentenced 6 to 3 years imprisonment, 8 to 1 year imprisonment, and 8 to 2 years imprisonment. The remaining defendants were acquitted.

In the first case, the court condemned 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Halim 'Abdallah and Ibrahim al-Badrawi Yusuf to 3 years imprisonment at hard labor; 'Abd al-Fattah al-'Iraqi, Fawzi Habshi Khalil, Muhammad 'Awwad, Muhammad Abu al-Darda', 'Aryan Nasif Nashid, Muhammad Mahmud Murad, and Faruq 'Ali Nasif to 2 years imprisonment at hard labor; and Majid Muhammad Ahmad, Ahmad 'Abd al-Khaliq Ghazlan, and Samir Ma'mun to 1 year in prison at hard labor. The remaining defendants, including attorney Ahmad Nabil al-Hilli, journalist Faridah al-Naqqash, and journalist Husayn 'Abd al-Razzaq were acquitted. The court also ruled that these three were innocent of the charges brought against them in the second case.

The verdicts in the second case were as follows: Muhammad Yusuf al-Khayri, Mubarak Fadl Hajji, Ahmad 'Ali Mustafa, Ahmad 'Adli 'Abd al-Hafiz, Salah 'Adli 'Abd al-Hafiz, and Muhammad 'Isam al-Ghamri were all sentenced to 3 years imprisonment at hard labor. Hasan Muhammad Badawi, Ibrahim Muhammad Hamid, Ahmad Muhammad Badawi, Husayn Ashraf Ahmad, Muhammad Mahmud Murad, Tahir Mahmud al-Barsabali, Muhammad Sulayman Muhammad Taha, and Mahjub 'Uthman each received 2 years in jail at hard labor. 'Aryan Nasif, Fathiyah Sayyid Ahmad, Ahmad Fahim al-Rifa'i, Isma'il Muhammad Sulayman, 'Ali 'Abbas Shihatah, Muhammad 'Ashur 'Awad, Ahmad Mahdmu Matrawi, and Fu'ad

Hasan Ahmad Salim were sentenced to 1 year imprisonment at hard labor. The other accused were acquitted.

The Supreme State Security Court had brought the defendants to trial on charges of forming a Communist Party organization; joining an illegal and antisocial partisan group; using force and terrorism to promote their beliefs, distributing publications which advocate Marxism-Leninism, incite the overthrow of the government, and insinuate contempt for it; and possession of the equipment required to print these materials. In justifying its verdict, the court mentioned that all the evidence that was recorded in the investigation and surveillance reports, as well as tapes and photographs, was suppressed, as it rested on unknown sources and was susceptible to technical tampering.

The court noted the absence of any evidence which proved that the defendants had actually formed a communist party. It said the defendants were being punished in light of verfified evidence that they were in possession of materials that would incite hostility to the regime. The court added that the defendants' alleged use of violence and terrorism had not been proven.

Jordan's King Husayn, Delegation Arrive in Baghdad

JN261718 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and his delegation arrived in Baghdad this evening on a short working visit during which his majesty will hold talks with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the fraternal Republic of Iraq.

His Majesty King Husayn was accorded an official reception at Baghdad airport led by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He was also welcomed at the airport by Vice President Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf; RCC member Na'im Haddad; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the director of the presidential office; the RCC members; the ministers; senior officials; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn hosted a banquet at the presidential palace this evening in honor of His Majesty King Husayn. The banquet was attended by the accompanying delegation and ranking Iraqi officials.

Official Talks Begin

JN261822 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Baghdad — Official talks between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn began at the presidential palace in Baghdad this evening.

Attending the talks on the Jordanian side were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri; and the Jordanian ambassador to Iraq. Attending on the Iraqi side were Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and interior minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Ahmad Husayn, head of the presidential office; the president's secretary; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Conclude Visit, Depart

JN262110 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 26 May 86

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 May (INA) — Jordanian King Husayn ibn Talal left Baghdad this evening at the end of a short official visit to Iraq. President Saddam Husayn headed those who saw King Husayn off. Also present to bid farewell to King Husayn were Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Interior Minister Dr Sa'dun Shakir; Ahmad Husayn, head of the presidential office; Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim; and the president's secretary.

Ramadan Leaves for Brazil To Hold Cooperation Talks

JN260721 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Baghdad, 26 May (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad this morning for Brasilia, heading an official delegation on a visit to Brazil lasting several days. Ramadan said that he will hold talks there on finding new scopes for mutual cooperation in the various fields. He also said that Iraqi-Brazilian relations have witnessed continuous growth in the economic, trade, and technical fields.

Ramadan's visit takes place at the official invitation of the Brazilian Government. The accompanying delegation consists of Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and miniser of trade; 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, under secretary of the Oil Ministry; and heads of several state organizations.

Baghdad Radio Reports on Thatcher's Israel Visit

JN241939 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher left for occupied Palestine today on a 4-day visit during which she will meet with enemy Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. An official British spokesman said that Thatcher is not carrying any peace initiative for the Middle East crisis but will affirm the independent British foreign policy on this crisis. She will also affirm the European Community's role in the peace process as of June when Britain will preside over the next EEC session.

The spokesman added that this visit follows consultations held by the British prime minister with European sides on the Middle East crisis. Thatcher visited occupied Palestine for the first time in 1975 when she was leader of the opposition during the British Labour Party rule.

'Correspondent' Denies Northern Town Captured

JN252025 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Our correspondent in Baghdad told us this evening that he has personally visited the town of (Mangish), located in northern Iraq near the Turkish border, but did not see there any of the Barzani-led Democratic Party of Kurdistan fighters. Barzani recently said that Kurdish rebels had captured this town.

Commander on Mehran Capture, Future Plans

JN241315 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Kuwait — II Army Corps Commander Staff Lietenant General Da' Tawfiq has asserted that the units entrusted with storming and occupying the town of Mehran performed their task in 5 hours in accordance with an integrated plan carried out in three axes.

In a statement published in the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-ANBA'* today, he said that the Iraqi forces will carry out similar operations when the political leadership thinks it fit to force Iran to yield to the way for peace. The II Army Corps commander explained that the area occupied by the II Army Corps forces was about 290 square kilometers.

The newspaper commented by saying that the Iranian enemy's losses in personnel and equipment were large and that large numbers of Iranian troops were captured. The spoils included U.S., Zionist, and Syrian equipment and weapons.

On the Iranian forces which were destroyed, the II Army Corps commander said they were regular forces with different armaments,including the 4th Brigade, the 21st Division, the 2d Brigade, the 81st Division, and regiments and units from the gendarmerie.

Commenting on the occupation of Mehran and other Iranian towns, the paper said that the storming by the II Army Corps forces was a daring expression of the Iraqi leadership's political decision. It added that the battle of the heroes' revenge [Ma'rakat tha'r al-abtal] is a page in the book of the new Iraqi strategy and will be followed by other counterattacks to severely destroy the Iranian military apparatus to force the Iranian rulers to yield to the sound path.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Forces Crush Iranian Offensive

JN231525 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1517 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Baghdad, 23 May (INA) — The forces of Iraq's V Army Corps crushed an Iranian offensive in the Hajj 'Umran area in northern Iraq today. INA learned that seven Iranian regiments have been wiped out and that the bodies of thousands of Iranians are littering the battlefield. Only those who were taken prisoner remained alive. The Iraqi forces seized weapons and some ammunition and equipment during the offensive. The situation was settled in favor of our forces.

Communique No 2,236

JN231903 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1758 GMT 23 May 86

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 23 May (INA) — A military communique here today announced that confirmed enemy losses during the Iraqi attack to occupy Mehran city in the central sector of the front on 19 May amounted to 2,500 dead, many more wounded, and hundreds taken prisoner.

The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 2,236 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The triumphant Iraqi forces are continuing their heroic defense of the homeland's territorial integrity and sovereignty, inflicting successive defeats on the rapacious enemies who continue to insist on war and aggression. Through their performance and courage, our Armed Forces affirm that they are in full control of the situation in the various operational areas. The following is a roundup of our operations for last night and today:

1. The V Army Corps will always brandish its rifles in the face of the enemy in order to behead those who are filled with spite for the great Iraqi people. Every day, our men in the V Army Corps are sending new crowds of Khomeyniites to hell, the fate they deserve. Our officers and men affirm that there is a great abyss separating the Iranian enemies from their evil designs against Iraq. This abyss is swallowing the frustrated soldiers which the charlatans are sending to the crematorium of death. The Khomeyniite gang is placed before the hard fact that it will not be able to harm Iraq and will end up defeated and humiliated.

The treacherous, defeated enemy sent five regiments of its knaves in a reckless adventure to attack our units in the (Kurduku) area. Our men confronted the attackers with their well-known courage and efficiency and were able after a fierce battle to dismember enemy troops. Only a few dozen from each regiment remained alive. The rest were strewn about as mangled bodies over the hills and valleys. Groups of enemy men surrendered to our forces. The situation was settled in favor of our forces.

Glory to the V Army Corps men —commanders, officers, and other ranks. Victory comes from God.

2. We have ascertained that as a result of our triumphant attack during which we occupied Mehran city, its basin, and suburbs, the following enemy units were almost completely wiped out except those which either fled or surrendered to our forces:

a. The 4th Armored Brigade from the 21st Division. The brigade is composed of the 102d Mechanized Infantry Regiment, the 133d Mechanized Infantry Regiment, and the 243d Artillery Battalion.

b. The 1st Brigade of the 84th Division. The brigade is composed of the 159th Infantry Regiment and the 182d Infantry Regiment.

c. Five regiments of the charlatan Khomeyni guards from the 5th Division.

d. Two regiments from the 21st Brigade of the 5th Division.

e. Another five regiments from the charlatan guards suffered massive losses in men and equipment.

f. The 219th Reconnaissance Company and a company from the Mehran gendarmes.

Confirmed enemy losses amounted to 2,500 dead, many more wounded, and hundreds of prisoners including a number of officers.

Our soldiers in the II Army Corps seized the following weapons and equipment in addition to those mentioned in our Communique No 2,235 issued on 22 May 1986:

Ten armored personnel carriers, 20 81-mm mortars, 8 60-mm mortars, 50 RPT-7 launchers, 1 bulldozer, 2 tractors, and 1 water tanker truck.

In the same sector last night, our brave soldiers launched three daring raids against enemy positions opposite them. Our men stormed enemy positions, destroyed them, and killed the enemy personnel in them. Our men returned safely to their bases, praise be to God. God bless the men of the II Army Corps.

3. Our brave pilots have continued to pour their deadly fire on the enemy forces in order to destroy their equipment and kill their personnel. They rendered glorious support to our triumphant units, cut off enemy supply lines, and destroyed a great number of enemy vehicles, guns, and positions in 120 combat missions. They returned safely to base after carrying out all these missions.

4. The Army helicopter gunships have continued to drop their destructive bombs on the apostate enemies, killing the Khomeyniites, destroying their equipment, and rendering support to our land forces. They carried out 100 combat missions and returned to base triumphantly and in God's care.

5. The VII Army Corps men are continuing to inflict massive losses on the enemy in its positions opposite them. They destroyed three vehicles, eight ammunition dumps, one observation post, two infantry positions, and one vehicle laden with ammunition. They also killed three enemy soldiers and started fires in enemy camps.

6. One of our heroic units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah raided enemy positions opposite our forces, killing four and destroying enemy positions. The unit returned safely to base.

In the same sector, seven enemy men were killed and one observation post and one infantry position were destroyed.

7. While carrying out its duties in the no-man's-land opposite our positions in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, one of our heroic patrols seized two 60-mm mortars, two Kalashinokov rifles, and one flashgun. Elsewhere in the same sector, one tank and one ammunition dump were destroyed.

8. The forces of charlatan Khomeyni shelled Khanaqin, Biyarah, and Tuwaylah with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 May 1986

Communique No 2,237

JN241535 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1509 GMT 24 May 86

[Unscheduled announcement; Communique No 2,237 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 May 1986]

[Excerpt] Lofty Iraqis, your Air Force, which always disperses enemy remnants; is famous for its efficiency in terms of commanders, planning, and preparation; and which has become renowned for the courage of its men and their splendid performance, now records a new epic to be added to its record, which is full of heroic deeds. Your Air Force is bent on depriving the aggressors of their oil facilities which Khomeyni and his henchmen use to give vent to their hatred, to serve Zionism and its evil designs, and to commit aggression against the great Iraqi people. Therefore, it is our clear right to deprive them of their mainstay of aggression. At 1600 [1200 GMT] today, our planes carried out two lightning, devastating raids, the first against the (Ghara) oil pumping station and the second on the (Amidia) oil pumping station. With God's help, these two very important stations, which pump large quantities of oil for export, were completely destroyed. The eagles left these two stations in flames and safely and triumphantly returned to base, bringing good tidings of victory to the great people.

Glory to our valiant Air Force — commanders, eagles, officers, and other ranks. We will proceed forward along the path of victory and freedom under the banner of our great leader. God is great, and ignominy to the evil clique.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 May 1986

Communique No 2,238

JN241702 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1620 GMT 24 May 86

[Communique No 2,238 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 May 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With efficiency, ability, and extreme courage, our valiant Armed Forces continue to gloriously defend Iraqi territory, Iraq's security and the future of its sons, daily inflicting further losses on the aggressors. The following is a roundup of our activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. A brave armored force of our units in the II Army Corps central sector carried out a daring raid on the Hoseynabad camp. With a resolute offensive, backed by our helicopter gunships and our artillery, the force opened intensive fire on the camp, inflicting the heaviest losses on enemy personnel, equipment, and weaponry in the camp, and setting huge fires in the camp's facilities. After carrying out its duty with courage and accuracy, the force safely returned to its positions. Elsewhere in the same sector, our units sighted a column of enemy vehicles and opened fire on it, completely destroying it in addition to destroying 13 other vehicles, 4 of which were carrying ammunition. Other units in the same sector carried out two raids against enemy positions opposite them, inflicting losses in life and equipment on the enemy. The member of the two forces [as heard] safely returned to their positions. In another area of the same sector, an enemy tank was destroyed, and nine Kalashnikov rifles, two medium machineguns, and two RPG-7 launchers were captured. May God bless the courageous men, the soldiers of the heroic II Army Corps.

2. The brave eagles of the air continued their daring raids on enemy positions, troop concentrations, and supply lines, inflicting massive losses on the Khomeyniite aggressors in 67 combat missions. After carrying out their duty, our brave eagles safely and triumphantly returned to base.

3. The valiant helicopter gunship knights continue to destroy enemy military hardware and weaponry, to inflict losses on enemy personnel, and to offer the best support to our ground units. The brave helicopter gunship knights carried out 30 combat sorties after which they safely returned to base, praised be to God.

4. In a daring raid, a force of our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah killed 10 enemy soldiers and destroyed several enemy positions, after which the force safely returned to its positions. In other areas of the same sector, six enemy soldiers were killed, one boat and one vehicle were destroyed, and another vehicle was damaged.

5. Our units on the VII Army Corps front continued to confront enemy forces, inflicting the following losses on them: a. four enemy soldiers were killed; b. eight vehicles were destroyed and one shovel and one grader were damaged; c. one DShK machinegun was destroyed; d. five positions of various types were destroyed and two ammunition dumps were set on fire; and e. four RPT-7 launcher, four Kalashnikov rifles, one 60-mm mortar, and two gas-operated rifles were captured.

6. Twelve enemy soldiers were killed, others were wounded, and two personnel carriers were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. The forces of the charlatan clique ruling Iran shelled Khanaqin and Shandri environs, Khurmal, and Tawilah with long-range artillery.

8. Escaping the despotism of the regime ruling Iran, new groups of Iranian military sought refuge with our forward units and were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 May 1986

Communique No 2,239

JN251712 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1624 GMT 25 May 86

[Communique No 2,239 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 May 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq's brave men continue to defend their people and country with great courage and determination.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Our gigantic Air Force is daily taking its share of inflicting further losses on enemy troops, concentrations, and equipment and in cutting off its resources and supplies wherever they exist, whether deep inside Iran, at the battlefronts, or at sea. Our planes carried out 137 combat missions today. At 1708 [1308 GMT] today, our planes launched a new successful raid on Khark Island installations, hitting their targets and setting them ablaze. After carrying out all their missions, our eagles returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. The bold helicopter gunships today inflicted large losses on enemy troops, concentrations, weapons, and equipment. The brave cavaliers carried out 52 combat missions after which they returned safely and triumphantly to base. Praised be God, the best supporter.

3. Guided by its wise, enlightened leadership, Iraq continues to score one victory after another and our valiant Armed Forces continue to have the initiative on the ground, in the air, and at sea.

In order to further destroy all that the Iranian enemy is using for its evil purposes, the brave men of the sea delivered an accurate and effective hit to a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 0015 today [2015 GMT 24 May]. After carrying out their duty with accuracy and perfection, our heroes returned safely to base with their naval units, praised be God. God bless the tough men of the sea, the honest men of the Arab Gulf waters.

4. An enemy force estimated at an infantry company attempted to approach our brave forward units' positions in the heroic VII Army Corps front. The corps' brave soldiers confronted it with their strong fire and forced it to retreat after inflicting several losses. They enemy then sent groups of soldiers in an attempt to evacuate its dead, but our fighters intensified their concentrated strikes and inflicted further losses. Enemy soldiers were heard calling for help. Only those few among them who fled escaped death.

In several other areas in the same sector our units managed to achieve the following: three shovels destroyed, one tubular launcher destroyed, four vehicles, two of which loaded with ammunition, destroyed, one machinegun emplacement destroyed and three enemy soldiers killed, two observation posts destroyed and some enemy soldiers manning them killed, one excavator damaged, three ammunition dumps destroyed, one machinegun emplacement destroyed, and fires started on the enemy side.

5. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah succeeded in destroying one infantry position, two medium-caliber machineguns, and two ammunition dumps and in killing two enemy soldiers.

6. An enemy plane penetrated our international borders at 1355 today, intending to strike at residential areas in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. Twelve civilians were injured and two civilian cars were damaged in the incident.

7. The forces of the spiteful clique shelled the suburbs of Khanaqin, Khurmal, and Biyarah with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 May 1986

Communique No 2,240

JN261936 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 May 86

[Communique No 2,240 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 May 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With their activities, our valiant Armed Forces emphasize the loftiness of this country and its growing strength in the face of the covetous. The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. With great courage and determination, our heroic Air Force planes continued to carry out bold raids against enemy camps, vital targets, troop concentrations, and positions at the battlefronts, inflicting massive losses on the Khomeyniite aggressors in 99 combat missions. Our planes also carried out the following missions today:

a. At 1341 [0941 GMT] today, the brave eagles carried out a devastating raid on the ('Ayn Khawsh) camp, delivering accurate strikes against enemy troop concentrations, weapons, equipment, and ammunition depots there. There were explosions, and both fire and smoke rose from the targets that were hit.

b. At 1358 the brave eagles raided the Qotur railroad and tunnel. They scored accurate hits and succeeded in destroying their targets.

c. At 1422 today our planes carried out a devastating raid on the Hamid camp, destroying its installations, troop concentrations, weaponry, and equipment.

After carrying out all these missions, our good, brave eagles returned safely to the homeland except one plane which crashed in enemy territory as a result of a technical fault. We hold Iran responsible for the safety of the pilot.

2. Our bold helicpter gunships continued their brave combat missions against enemy positions in the operational sectors, inflicting losses in men and equipment. They carried out 50 combat missions and returned safely to base.

3. One of our units in the II Army Corps central sector spotted an enemy force estimated at an infantry company while trying to approach our forward positions. It pounded it effectively with all types of weapons, destroying the major part of the enemy force and forcing the rest to flee. A force from our units raided enemy positions opposite it, killing three soldiers, wounding others, and destroying four infantry positions. The force returned safely to base.

Elsewhere in the same sector, our units burned an enemy tank and seized a vehicle.

4. An enemy force estimated at an infantry platoon attempted to approach our positions on the VII Army Corps front. It was pounded with weapons, and all its personnel were killed. In other areas of the same sector, our units inflicted the following losses on the enemy: a) four enemy soldiers were killed; b) five posts of various types were destroyed; c) one shovel was damaged; d) two RPG-7 launchers, six Kalashnikov rifles, one SPG-9 gun, one medium-caliber machinegun, and one sniper rifle were seized.

5. Some enemy soldiers were killed and two vehicles loaded with personnel were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, and one anchorage and three infantry positions were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. Eight posts of various types and two vehicles were destroyed and three enemy soldiers were killed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

7. The criminal enemy forces shelled the suburbs of Khanaqin, Tawilah, and Sirwan with long-range artillery.

8. Some Iranian military men defected to our forward units. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 May 1986

King Husayn Leaves for Syria To Act As Mediator

JN241620 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1604 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Jordanian King Husayn left for Damascus this evening on a surprise visit to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. President al-Asad visited Amman on 15 May. According to a Jordanian source in Amman, King Husayn's visit to Damascus is within the context of the mediation King Husayn is undertaking between Damascus and Baghdad to convene an Arab summit. The source said that during President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Amman on 15 May King Husayn discussed the possibility of a rapprochement between Syria and Iraq and that the Syrian reply was not a negative one.

The Jordanian source added that the Jordanian monarch visited Baghdad on 13 May where he discussed with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn the means for attaining a minimum level of accord between Syria and Iraq and that he and Presidnet Saddam Husayn had agreed on the broad lines of a plan for improving relations between Iraq and Syria within the framework of an Arab summit.

Another authoritative Jordanian source said that if the Jordanian mediation succeeds, a high-level meeting will initially be held between the Syrians and the Iraqis.

Returns From Visit

JN250446 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and the accompanying delegation returned to Amman early this morning following a working visit to Syria during which he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The talks between the two Arab leaders dealt with the current Arab situation and relations between the two fraternal countries. His majesty was welcomed by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd; and Army Commander in Chief General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir. Returning with his majesty were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

AL-DUSTUR Comments on Visit

JN260736 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 May 86 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Jordanian-Syrian Summit"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Damascus and his talks with his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad fall within the framework of the distinguished relations between Jordan and Syria which can constitute means for concluding joint Arab action and a base for launching modern and effective Arab soldiarity. We cannot understand the significance of the recent summit between King Husayn and Al-Asad or the objective of these intensified meetings between the two great Arab leaders without recalling the series of meetings and visits that centered in Amman throughout the past few weeks.

It is no secret that Jordan, whose leadership is fully aware of the dangers surrounding the general Arab situation, has always worked to mend rifts among brothers and to bring closer the surrounding Arab capitals' viewpoints, hoping to rebuild Arab solidarity and unite efforts and resources to confront enemies lying in wait for this Arab nation. Jordan, which has opted to play this pioneering pan-Arab role and placed all its potential in the service of this honest objective, is carrying out part of its lofty and historic mission, the mission of the Great Arab Revolt.

Therefore, while recalling the series of consultations that centered on King Husayn throughout the past few weeks, we realize the noble objectives of King Husayn's meetings with his brothers, the Arab leaders, in Jordan or in their capitals.

As we are proud of the role played by Jordan since it carried the flag of the first Arab revolution in modern Arab history, we hope that these continuous efforts, which King Husayn has exerted tirelessly will result in closing Arab ranks and reviving the spirit of unity, solidarity, and challenge. We believe that the first step to achieve this can be embodied in convening an ordinary or emergency Arab summit to be attended by everyone to discuss all urgent Arab issues and concerns.

King Husayn, Delegation Leave for Baghdad

JN261516 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Baghdad this afternoon on a working visit during which he will hold talks with His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on aspects of the situation in the Arab region and relations between the two fraternal countries.

Seeing his majesty off were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; the senate president; the deputy speaker of the House of Representatives; his highness the chief chamberlain; the Jordanian Armed Forces commander in chief; the ministers; and a number of senior civilian and military officials.

His Highhness Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath before His Majesty King Husayn in the presence of the Cabinet as his majesty the king's regent during his absence from the homeland.

His majesty is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. The Iraqi ambassador in Amman left on the same plane.

Return to Amman

JN270525 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 May 86

[Excerpt] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn returned to the homeland late last night following a short working visit to Iraq during which he held talks with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the current Arab situation and relations between the two fraternal countries.

Underground Group Says Military Purge Under Way
NC262027 Paris AFP in English 2018 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Beirut, May 26 (AFP) — The Jordanian secret service is purging the military and torturing its victims, the underground National Jordanian Movement (NJM) said Monday.

The NJM communique, dated May 23 but distributed Monday to the press here, said those arrested had been taken to the 'Abdali secret service headquarters in Amman for torture.

It added that the purge throughout the ranks had been directed especially against the Army's second brigade, the Air Force, and police in Irbid and Karak Provinces.

The NJM also claimed the purge followed a "massacre of students" at Yarmuk University to the north of Amman on May 15.

The communique said: "The soldiers' only crime was to refuse to carry out the hangman's orders to kill the sons of our people," and called on patriots to raise their voices to demand the release of political prisoners in Jordan and the restoration of civil liberties.

AL-RA'Y, AL-DUSTUR on Thatcher Visit to Israel
JN240706 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 May 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Thatcher's Visit to Israel," *AL-RA'Y* says in its editorial: Mrs Thatcher today begins the first visit by a British prime minister to Israel since the end of the British mandate in Palestine. The first thing drawing attention to this visit is that Israel has quickly removed it from the context of the peace process in the area. It has also highlighted the issues of terrorism and the sale of sophisticated British arms to Saudi Arabia and presented them as disturbing topics which may be discussed during talks with the British prime minister.

On of the paradoxes calling for astonishment and ridicule is that Israeli officials, who themselves carried out large-scale terrorist acts in Palestine during the British mandate, are not embarrassed to announce they will discuss the hot issue of terrorism with the British prime minister. What also calls for contemplation and caution is that Israel, which has succeeded in obstructing the U.S. arms deal with Saudi Arabia, now wants to use Mrs Thatcher's visit as an occasion to obstruct the arrival of sophisticated British arms in Saudi Arabia and Jordan, despite the fact that Israel itself is being subjected to a British arms embargo since its invasion of Lebanon.

The paper concludes: It is obvious that Israel's overlooking of one of the main objectives of Mrs Thatcher's visit, namely, exploration of ways to reactivate the peace process in the area, indicates Israel's prior rejection of this objective and unwillingness to cooperate in its achievment.

Commenting on the same subject, *AL-DUSTUR* says: Mrs Thatcher is scheduled to arrive in occupied Jerusalem today in the first visit by a British prime minister to the Zionist entity since the end of the British mandate in occupied Palestine. On the occasion of this visit, we must remind Mrs Thatcher, in her position as prime minister of a country which had mandatory power in Palestine, of the outcome of that ill-omened declaration made by Lord Balfour at the turn of this century and of how British bias during the mandate encouraged the Zionists to ignore every promise, provision, and law, especially since we know that her hosts will not take her to refugee camps, but show her pictures of survivors of Nazi concentration camps who reclaimed deserts and marshlands.

The paper adds: If it is impossible to review all the results of the British policy in Palestine, it is only fair to ask the country which is most informed on the affairs and concerns of the Palestine question to not pause at the superficial pictures which the Israeli leaders will show about their accomplishments and peace plans, but to go after the historical facts, foremost being the fate of millions of refugees whose most fundamental civil and political rights are ignored by Israel and who are facing all types of torture and coercion daily under Israeli occupation.

AL-DUSTUR concludes: We view Mrs Thatcher's visit to the Zionist entity differently from visits by other heads of state or Western leaders because we believe that Britain's great responsibility for what befell the Palestinian people still exists.

Arab Press: Hostages To Be Freed ‘Soon’

NC251054 Paris AFP in English 1051 GMT 25 May 86

[Excerpt] Beirut, May 25 (AFP) — Three Frenchmen and three U.S. nationals held hostage in Lebanon will be freed soon, the newspaper *AL-SHIRA‘* reported here Sunday, quoting a "well informed political source." The item appeared among the newsbriefs in the weekly, which has links with Moslem and leftist Lebanese organizations. A rumour has been circulating here since Wednesday that the release of Western hostages was imminent.

First reports said four Frenchmen and two U.S. nationals had already been handed over to Syrian authorities and would be sent home soon. The daily newspaper *AL-SAFIR* on Saturday quoted "well informed sources" as saying that four Frenchmen would be freed in the next two days and four more in a week at the latest. Nine Frenchmen and five Americans are being held hostage in Lebanon.

French ‘Envoy’ To Discuss Hostages

NC251627 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 25 May 86

[Excerpt] Travellers arriving from Damascus have confirmed reports that ‘Umran Adham, a Syrian businessman who identified himself last March as an envoy of French President Francois Mitterrand, is now in Damascus to mediate in the issue of French hostages in Lebanon.

Romanian Embassy Car Intercepted by Gunmen

NC241634 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] According to security reports today, gunmen riding in two cars intercepted a car belonging to the Romanian Embassy in the Al-Sanawbarah area [in West Beirut] at 1300 today. The car bears diplomatic plate number 159/2. The gunmen forced the driver out of the car but he managed to escape unhurt although the gunmen fired at him. Amal Movement members, who happened to be near the scene of the incident, transferred the driver to Burj al-Murr and handed him over to the Romanian Embassy.

Sinn al-Fil Car Bomb Under Investigation

Four Suspects Detained

NC231318 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] In connection with the car bomb that went off in Sinn al-Fil today, leaving 9 people dead and 84 injured, judicial sources say that four suspects have been detained and interrogated by the military prosecutor. They are an Armenian printing press owner, two Egyptians, and a Lebanese. An eyewitness said that he had seen the driver of the booby-trapped car and could identify him.

Syrian Intelligence Suspected

NC231448 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1354 GMT 23 May 86

[Excerpt] Following an explosion in Sinn al-Fil this morning, a Lebanese Forces security source stated: Sin al-Fil was the scene of a booby-trapped car explosion this morning. Its purpose was to kill the most innocent victims possible on a heavily populated street. The information collected by the security unites indicates that the car used was a red Renault 5, which was rigged with 75 kg of TNT and loaded with mortar shells. It exploded on a side street off Al-Ghazal street in Sinn al-Fil. The explosion killed 6 persons, wounded 66, and caused considerable damage to buildings and property. Two suspects were immediately arrested and are being questioned. A field investigation indicates that Syrian intelligence was involved in the operation, particularly in view of the way the car was rigged and the operation carried out.

Ja‘ja‘ Blames Syria for Aggravating Military Situation

NC261829 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 26 May 86

[Excerpts] Dr Samir Ja‘ja‘, chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, has called on Syria to prove to the nearby world before proving it to the more distant one that it is not a terrorist state and that it will stop sending booby-trapped cars and parcels. He said that when Syria entered Lebanon, it did so on the basis that it would play the role of mediator among the warring parties. Hwoever, the way it has acted between 1978 and 1987 has added a new party to the Lebanese conflict along with more complications and a new dimension to the crisis. Hence, a serious solution must start with the removal of the added problem. Ja‘ja‘ stressed that all means of escalation will be useless. Only one thing will be useful, and that is for the Lebanese to sit down face to face. The minimum prerequisites to begin solving the crisis must be made available to them. Disregarding the other party is not acceptable in theory or logical in practice. He stressed that all the Lebanese parties must shoulder their responsibilities courageously by following an independent political course so that the Lebanese crisis will not remain tied to the regional conflict played out on Lebanese territory.

Ja‘ja‘ added: Since the tripartite agreement collapsed, the Syrian leaders, particularly ‘Abd al-Halim Khaddam, have been pressuring a number of armed parties to aggravate the military situation. At a press conference this afternoon, Dr Ja‘ja‘ revealed facts and names that prove the Syrian intelligence services' involvement in preparing and sending booby-trapped cars to the Christian areas. He listed the places where these cars are being rigged and provided names. He said that the Amal Movement, the Arab Ba‘th Party Organization, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, and the pro-Syrian Palestinians had in fact instigated the latest military escalation. Some of the Syrian Army emplacements had taken part in the shelling from time to time. Dr Ja‘ja‘ said:

[Begin recording] All booby-trapped cars and parcels that are exploding in the eastern areas have been brought in from outside. I will give examples. The Syrian intelligence organs are behind these explosions. I will give examples of this. Let us take the car that exploded in Juniyah. It was prepared in the shelter of the Sa'd Fakhr al-Din building in Tripoli. Majors al-Sha'ar and Al-Khalil, from Syrian intelligence, supervised preparations. Ahmad Tubbu brought the car from Tripoli to the eastern areas. An explosives expert was summoned from Syria to booby-trap the car. In the Al-Hirmil area, booby-trapped cars are being prepared in the garage of Muhammd al-Haj al-Hasan for Syrian intelligence. The same thing is going on in the Ramadan garage in Al-Ghubayrah. In Tripoli, Al-Qubbah, Madrasat al-Amirikan, there is an assistant called Muhammad Khudr, known as Abu Khudr, who is supervising the preparation of booby-trapped cars sent to the eastern areas. These are the facts.

I would like to put the following points on record:

1. I regret that a state like Syria is resorting to such terrorist methods and tools in its policy. Before it proves to the distant world that it is not a terrorist state, let Syria start to show the world closer by that it is not a terrorist state and let the Syrian intelligence organs stop sending booby-trapped cars and parcels to explode in streets and alleys, near homes, and amid children, women, and old people.

2. When it entered Lebanon, Syria did so on the basis that it would play the role of mediator among the warring parties. In practice, the way Syria has acted between 1978 and 1986 has added another party to the conflict. It has added more complications and given another dimension to the Lebanese crisis.

3. The political stance adopted by the Christians stems from a clear reading of Lebanese reality and from firm convictions. All the terrorism in the world cannot change these convictions. We are staying here. Our ideas, culture, and convictions are our own. Our political line is the same. Even if this 10-year war continues for another 100 years, it will not change our convictions the least bit. [end recording]

Dr Ja'ja' announced that the crossing points between East and West Beirut and in all other areas will be provided with electronic equipment capable of detecting booby-trapped cars and suitcases. He also announced that the results of the investigations into the terrorist actions inside the eastern areas will be made public within 10 to 15 days. He said that the planning, equipment, preparation, and financing of terrorism in the eastern areas is Syrian and that it is being carried out by supporters of Elie Hubayqah [former Lebanese Forces chairman] and by the Syrian nationalists networks. Four individuals were arrested following the recent explosion in Sinn al-Fil and investigations are continuing to expose a terrorist network in which they were operating. He added that the Lebanese Forces had retaliated for the shelling of Kasrawan and Jubayl by shelling long-range artillery batteries in Al-Nabi Shit and Hawr Ta'la.

In his replies to correspondents' questions, Dr Samir Ja'ja' said that any attempt to start a new solution must begin with the removal of transitory problems, including the presence of the Syrian military and intelligence forces in Lebanon. He stressed: Our political line is constant and will not change under military pressure. We will retaliate for any escalation in order to stop it. We are forced to retaliate for any escalation with fiercer, stronger, more effective, and more comprehensive escalation, [illegible] not through terrorism.

Asked whether his accusation against Khaddam means that there are two policies in Syria, Ja'ja' said: I do not want to talk about the nature of the Syrian regime. The facts available to us show that Khaddam has been trying for 4 months, together with the armed groups, to escalate the situation militarily in the eastern areas. Regretfully, he has succeeded with some groups that are linked to Syrian organs and intelligence.

Ja'ja' said that the statements by Presidents Amin al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad were not capricious. He expressed the hope that the Syrian president will put his words into action instead of allowing them to remain merely theory or maneuver. He stressed that Syria's military presence in Lebanon is a problem in itself.

PSP Calls Christian Plan 'Ploy To Gain Time'

NC241359 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 24 May 86

[Excerpt] In a statement issued today after a meeting under the chairmanship of Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt, the PSP Political Bureau stressed that the Christian plan supported by the Phalangist party is of no interest to the PSP or to the National Forces. It is only a ploy to gain time while awaiting an anticipated Israeli aggression. Amin al-Jumayyil, Sham'un, the Lebanese Forces, and the Maronite Political elements as a whole do not wish for a balanced national reconciliation but, rather, hegemony and control. Those who wish for reconciliation would not have attacked the southern suburb the way they did, causing a true massacre.

Karami Questions Christian Plan, Dialogue Call

NC261407 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 May 86

[Statement by Prime Minister Rashid Karami following a meeting of the West Beirut coordination committee in West Beirut on 26 May — recorded]

[Excerpt] No one can ignore the country's bad situation. If events are the result of complex political differences that we have been unable to resolve up to now, then it stands to reason that we should have this situation. But if what is happening is the result of differences among people in the same ranks, then we cannot accept it. The West Beirut Coordination Committee, therefore, focused its discussions today on measures and arrangements within our reach to correct this bad situation, which is affecting innocent people. As to the incidents between the Palestinians and their neighbors, I do not understand the reasons that have led to the opening of this wound and to the wound's continued bleeding. Everyone is paying the price for this situation. The Palestinians, the Lebanese, the nationalists, and the Muslims are all the same. Why should there be then such differences and conflicts? We are all with the Palestinian issue and the legitimate Palestinian revolution. As far as I know, the Palestinians support Lebanon's nationalist and Muslim position. Isn't it time that this dispute ended and a solution reached? Yes, it is. Mutual violations must be dealt with and averted.

Regarding the general Lebanese situation, we have heard about the Christian plan. We have not yet learned what this plan consists of except for what has been unofficially published in the press. All this uproar has not yet produced a plan the Christians can agree on. There are some who support former President Sulayman Franjiyah's plan. Former President Charles Hilu supports Franjiyah's plan and calls on former President Sham'un to consolidate all the plans in the Christian area. All this shows that there are still differences, and that no unified plan has emerged. Will such a plan come about? I do not know. Meanwhile, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil says an understanding with Syria must be reached. Everyone remembers that all the problems with fraternal Syria have occurred after 15 January. Now, after all these months, we say that the doors must be opened and the dialogue resumed. We all support dialogue. But dialogue on what? Can't we reach an understanding about a comprehensive solution for salvation on the basis of democracy, justice, and equality? This is what we have proposed and will continue to propose, but whenever we arrive at positive and effective proposals, we find that no progress can be made to end Lebanon's crisis.

Birri Meets SSNP Delegation, Airport Officials

NC241759 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri gave a detailed review of airport security and the educational institutions during a meeting today with a delegation representing the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] led by 'Isam al-Mahayri. SSNP members 'Abdallah Sa'adah, Marwan Faris, Dawud Baz, and Tawfiq Muhanna attended the meeting. In a statement following the meeting, Al-Mahayri said that the visit reflects their strong ties and, he added, comes in the wake of the vicious onslaught on the southern suburb and Al-Biqa'. This onslaught was targeted against the Nationalist Forces and aimed at obstructing the achievement of any unity or peaceful trend in the area. He added: We have come to express our full solidarity with the Amal Movement in its confrontation of this onslaught.

Continuing, Al-Mahayri said: The discussions dealt with ways to coordinate policies on Beirut, Al-Biqa', the south, and the southern suburb. Our views were identical and we agreed on practical steps. Minister Birri then received a delegation representing the private schools, led by Dr Husayni Yatim.

At 1300, Minister Birri chaired a meeting to discuss the issue of the airport. It was attended by Brigadier General Sami al-Shaykhah, head of the airport security service, the officials in charge of public security and internal security forces, the head of the Syrian obsevers, and a number of the Amal Movement members. An agreement was reached during the meeting on the final touches of airport security. It was agreed to prevent any illegitimate force from entering the airport, to set up a barrier between people arriving and those meeting them, and to close down all gates leading to the airport runways.

Birri Says Bullets Must Be 'Aimed Southward'

NC261730 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 26 May 86

[Excerpt] Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, has affirmed that every bullet not aimed southward is suspect. The Amal Movement, he said, cannot remain a spectator while the blood of martyrs goes to waste.

In response to a question, Minister Birri said this afternoon: The south and its security are targets of a sabotage scheme similar to the one West Beirut faced after 1984. The helicopter carrying a high-level French delegation was fired upon; Father Abu 'Aql, the head of the Qudmus Institute, was cowardly and criminally assassinated; and the French UNIFIL contingent came under fire yesterday. All these are part of a carefully prepared plan designed to prevent any progress in the implementation of UN Resolution 425. We will not be surprised if strife develops between the camps and the surrounding areas, just as happened between the Beirut camps and their surroundings.

Minister Birri added: Needless to say, Israel is the sole beneficiary of these kinds of incidents. Those who pay most dearly are primarily the Lebanese and the Palestinians. We still maintain that the solution to the Lebanese problem will pave the way for the Palestinian issue, which has been overshadowed. A united Lebanon — land and people — will be the mainstay for Palestine and its people, not the present situation or something like it. The Amal Movement will fulfill its commitments to its people under all circumstances. The bullets fired inside the country are wasted and should be fired against the Israeli enemy.

Sham'un, Lebanese Forces Comment on Chirac Statement

NC231956 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1815 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Former President Camille Sham'un has described French Prime Minister Jacque Chirac's position on the Syrian role in Lebanon and the tripartite agreement as representing a pitfall. He urged him to read the agreement personally because, had he done so, he would have discovered that this agreement is aimed at Syria's total domination of Lebanon. He added: It is not that Lebanon is interested in concluding agreements against Syria, Lebanon only wants to reach a Christian-Islamic agreement that is not directed against anybody.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Forces office in Paris has questioned the logic that led French Prime Minister Jacque Chirac to make that statement regarding the Syrian role in Lebanon. The office statement added: Does Chirac believe he will manage to secure the release of the French hostages once he enables Syria to control Lebanon? Has the French Government read the text of the tripartite agreement? Would the French Government have accepted such an agreement of subjugation had it been related to France or to any other country?.

Nasirite Movement Leader Leaves for Moscow

NC261207 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Mustafa Sa'd, secretary General of the Nasirite Popular Organization, left Damascus for Moscow today. He held talks in Damascus with senior Syrian officials on the current situation in Lebanon and the region.

Six Gunmen Kill Carmelite Abbot Near Tyre

NC241941 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 24 May 86

[Excerpt] Father Butrus Abi 'Aql, a Carmelite abbot, was gunned down on his way back from Tyre after visiting a number of patients. He was returning to his residence in Qadmuz School in Jiwar al-Nakhlah, near Tyre, when six gunmen intercepted him, fired, and killed him instantly. His body has been transferred to Jabal 'Amil Hospital.

Gunmen Reportedly Assassinate Amal Official in Sidon

NC251116 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1045 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Gunmen assassinated an Amal Movement official named Muhammad Salih in the southern town of Sidon today. The situation grew tense after the shooting, and gunmen from the Amal Movement and the Nasirite Popular Organization were seen in the city.

Amal Denies Assassination

NC251830 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 25 May 86

[Statement by the Fifth Section of the Amal Movement's Central Military Bureau, issued on 25 May]

[Text] The Phalangist radio has broadcast a report that brother Muhammad Salih has been the target of an assassination attempt in Sidon. The Fifth Section completely denies this report, which aims at spreading confusion and strife in the nationalist ranks.

Syrian Officers Tour Camps Area in Beirut

NC241712 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1545 GMT 24 May 86

[Excerpt] The Central News Agency has cited informed sources as saying that Syrian observer officers, including Captains Ahmad al-Shalabi and 'Ali Ma'ruf, made a tour of the camps neighborhood accompanied by Amal's 'Aql Hamiyah. They established new emplacements for flat-trajectory artillery and tanks, particularly in Shatila.

Katyusha Fired at Israel, Retaliation Reported

Rocket Fired at Israel

NC240933 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] According to reports from Southern Lebanon, some unidentified men fired a Katyusha rocket at Israeli territory from the village of Al-Hamra at 0100 today. The Israelis responded by shelling Al-Hamra, Nahr Zawtar, and the adjacent areas. The Israelis fired flares over the region at 0300, and their helicopters carried out reconnaissance flights until 0500.

Israelis Shell Yatir

NC251226 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] At noon today, the Israeli enemy brought the town of Yatir, in the Bint Jubayl district, under violent artillery fire. A large number of homes, as well as the village mosque, were hit. Yusuf Amin Kurani, 23, was killed, and four other people were wounded in the shelling. The Red Cross and the UN emergency forces entered the village at 1430 and transported the dead man and the wounded to Jabal 'Amil Hospital. This followed attempts by the occupation forces and agent Lahd's militia to prevent them from reaching Yatir by directing heavy fire at the approaches to the town.

Resistance Clashes With Israeli Patrol

NC251636 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Amal has announced that the martyr Commander Zuhayr Shahadah group planted an explosive charge on the Rshaf-Dibil road yesterday. The charge went off as an Israeli patrol passed through, destroying one Israeli vehicle and killing all the soldiers in it. The group then fought with other members of the patrol for about 4 hours. Several helicopters arrived and began combing the area. Four Resistance fighters were martyred in this battle and the occupation forces moved their bodies to Bint Jubayl. The martyrs were: Husayn al-Atrash, Muhammad Shur, 'Abbas Duhayni, and Hasan Haydar. All of them are from Tura village.

Israel Reinforces Troops in Al-Biqa'

NC270631 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] According to reports from western Al-Biqa', the Israeli occupation forces have again sent additional vehicles and tanks to the confrontation lines in eastern and western Al-Biqa'. The reports also reveal that suspicious movements have taken place along the Israelis' deployment lines in the past few hours. The Israeli forces have brought more tanks and vehicles from occupied Palestine, using two lines of approach: First, via the Mtullah-Marj 'Uyun-Burghuz triangle and Al-Surayri; and, second, through the Shab'a farms and (?tallat siddan). These tanks have been deployed on the northeast hills of Shab'a, the (?saddan) axis, and Radar Hill. Other vehicles have been moved to the Israeli observation post on Mount Hermon. Reports say that additional reinforcements have been deployed along forward lines from the Al-Surayri triangle in the west to the Al-Dahr Mountain in the east through the Burghuz triangle. Another mechanized unit has advanced toward the Kafr Hunah-Jazzin line.

Blast in East Beirut Injures Four, Damages Building

NC240758 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0745 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Four people have been injured in an explosion in the Al-Sabtiyah area [of East Beirut]. The explosive device — estimated at 10 kgs of TNT — was contained in a bag left on the second floor of the Joseph Korlakian building. The explosion has caused cracks in the building.

Bomb Blast Kills Two, Injures Five in Beirut 26 May

NC260613 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Two people were killed and five others injured this morning in an explosion that took place near the beer brewery in Al-Dawrah [in Beirut]. Security sources say the explosion was caused by a bomb, the nature of which is being assessed by a military expert. Investigations into the incident are underway; the internal security forces halted traffic in the area for some time. The injured have been taken to the hospital.

Irish Defense Minister To Inspect UNIFIL Force

NC260902 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0845 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] The Irish defense minister [Patrick Cooney] arrived in Beirut this morning on a visit that will last several days. During his stay, he will inspect the UNIFIL Irish contingent and will discuss its conditions with Lebanese officials. A number of senior officers in the Lebanese Army welcomed the Irish minister at the airport at 1030.

Italian Ambassador Vows To Keep Embassy Open

NC251719 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1545 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Italian Ambassador to Lebanon Antonio Moneccini has emphasized that his country will not close down its embassy in Beirut just because of the deteriorating security situation. The ambassador added that Italy believes it can render tremendous services to Lebanon.

In a statement to the magazine *MONDAY MORNING*, Moneccini noted that the embassy employees have often received threats and experienced conditions that are harsher than the present ones. Consequently, the ambassador added, it is unlikely that the situation will deteriorate further. He affirmed that Italy is quite prepared to increase the size of its contingent operating within UNIFIL.

Reports on Visit by Jordan's King Husayn

Husayn Arrives, Talks Begin

JN241741 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1715 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Damascus — His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal arrived in Damascus this evening on a cordial working visit to Syria. His Majesty was welcomed at the airport by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, who greeted him at the plane's ramp. Also present at the plane's ramp to welcome his majesty were Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister, deputy commander in chief, and defense minister; and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. After shaking hands with the ministers, His Majesty King Husayn left with his excellency the president for the presidential palace, where they held a closed meeting. His Majesty King Husayn is accompanied by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

His Excellency President Al-Asad hosted a dinner to break the fast in honor of His Majesty King Husayn. The dinner was attended by Zayd al-Rifa', Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Tahir al-Masri, and Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister and defense minister, Interior minister Muhammad Ghabbash, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Minister of Information Yasin Rajjuh, minister for Presidential Affairs Wahib Fadil, and 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Leaders Hold Second Meeting

JN242023 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 24 May 86

[Excerpt] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn resumed their talks after the banquet to break the fast in a second closed meeting they held at the Presidential Palace.

Husayn Leaves Damascus

JN250443 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Damascus —His Majesty King Husayn left Damascus shortly after midnight last night. He was seen off at the airport by President Hafiz al-Asad and a number of senior officials. President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn resumed their talks in a second closed meeting at the presidential palace last night. Talks revolved around developments in the region. His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Damascus last night for a cordial working visit.

USSR Army General Lizichev's Visit Reported

Al-Asad Receives Soviet General

JN241146 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1400 today Army General Aleksey Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Department of the Soviet Army and Navy in the USSR.

Soviet General Departs

JN242031 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 24 May 86

[Excerpt] Damascus — Army General Aleksey Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Department of the Soviet Army and Navy, and the accompanying delegation left Damascus today for Moscow following a cordial and official visit of several days to Syria. During the visit, the means of promoting relations of friendship and cooperation between the armies of the two friendly countries were discussed.

'Text' of Al-Asad Athens Dinner Speech

JN270800 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
2010 GMT 26 May 86

["Text" of speech by President Hafiz al-Asad at dinner banquet hosted in his honor by Greek President Khristos Sartzetakis in Athens on 26 May 1986 — read by announcer]

[Text] Mr Khristos Sartzetakis, president of the Hellenic Republic; Mrs Sartzetakis; Prime Minister Andreas Papandreau; friends; ladies and gentlemen: We have listened to your speech, Mr President, with full appreciation. I sincerely thank you in my name, on behalf of my wife, and also in the name of the members of the Syrian delegation for the hospitality you have accorded us since our arrival in your beautiful country.

Permit me to convey to you the greetings of the Syrian people, who reciprocate the Greek people's feelings of friendship and are grateful for Greece's stands in support of our just cause, as well as their best wishes for your country's continued progress and prosperity.

We are pleased to be in your capital, Athens, which is famous for its ancient history, rich in its heritage and glories, and attractive by its beautiful nature. This visit is a good opprotunity to exchange ideas and viewpoints on matters of mutual concern, both those dealing with our bilateral relations and those dealing with regional and international issues. It is also a good opportunity to meet with your friendly people and to get closely acquainted with the landmarks of their ancient culture. We are confident that our visit will contribute toward strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two peoples.

The existence of our two countries on two opposite, neighboring shores of the Mediterranean Sea has naturally made us experience both old and new events in this region and in the entire Mediterranean basin. We have influenced these events and have also been influenced by them. A traveler crossing the short distance between the Syrian and Greek shores, whether by sea or air, cannot but recall the historic events of this region. The lessons of history are for the well-being of mankind and its future generations, and in the interest of the present and the future, aspired by all nations. This future can be achieved only on the basis of friendship, equal cooperation, mutual respect, and the cleimination of aggression and exploitation.

The Arab and Greek peoples have had several contacts throughout history. The two peoples have had similar experiences and the close contact between them has left its effects on both sides. No doubt, the intellectual contact between us in this long history has had its deepest effect. The exchange of knowledge between us has contributed to the advancement of mankind and to the enrichment of science and knowledge. When we recall such world famous philosphers and scientists as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Pythagoras, and Archimedes, we also recall the names of Arab philosphers and scientists who translated their works, developed their ideas, and also made their own contirbutions, such as Al-Farabi, Al-Kindi, Avicenna, Ibn Rushd, and Al-Razi. As recognition of this old, deep intellectual contact, the Arabs named Aristotle the first teacher of philosphy and Al-Farabi the second teacher.

Our Arab people contributed greatly toward building the Hellenic civilization. You know, of course, that St Paul, who sent messages to Korinthos, Galatas, Saloniki, and Kolonsi in which he preached the principles of Jesus Christ, began in Damascus. Part of the ancient wall surrounding our capital still testifies to his salvation from his persecutors by Hanniya, the first bishop of Damascus. St Paul also began his journey to the cities of Greece from Damascus. I was please to learn that a popular hymn in Greece is named after John the Damascene. All these are examples of the intellecutual and spiritual ties that have always existed between our two peoples. This is in addition to the fine arts and aesthetic skills that have been exchanged between us throughout the ages.

Mr President, we are living in a world full of problems and conflicts. Some of them are hot, others are explosive, and still others threaten the world with the gravest catastrophes. One of the problems that poses the gravest danger to peace and security in the eastern Mediterranean and the world is the Arab-Israeli conflict. This problem has continued for a long time, become more aggravated, and resulted in several other problems.

The problem began with the invasion of Palestine and the emergence of the Palestine question as a result of the gross injustice that was done to the Palestinian people at the hands of the colonial, imperialist, and Zionist forces which, despite their realization that peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved in the absence of a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and without the return of all the Arab nation's rights -- including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and repatriation -- continue to obstruct the solution, while the Arabs have worked for developing some of their ideas and defining some of the methods that would contirbute to the attainment of just peace and to the removal of the existing injustice, persecution, occupation, and deportation. It was within this framework that the resolutions of the Arab summit in Fes were adopted. It was also within this framework that we gave our support for an international conference sponsored by the United Nations in which the two superpowers would participate.

But the problem is deeper and more serious than it seems. Israel's expansionist ambitions to Arab territory constitutes a threat to the Arabs and neighboring nations. This is confirmed by the Zionist doctrimes and documents which are the basis of Israel's policy to establish Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. It was on this basis that the Palestinian people were displaced, Arab territories were occupied, and Lebanon is being invaded from time to time.

Fraternal Lebanon has suffered and is still suffering from these Zionist ambitions Israel attempted to achieve in Lebanon in several states, chief of which the stage of invading Lebanon in 1982, during which Israel committed big crimes through arbitrary shelling of cities and villages and storming Beirut following a long siege. This serious terrorist crime has not drawn the attention of those who support Israel, particularly the U.S. Administration. It has been proved that the U.S. Administration gave Israel the green light to carry out its invasion of Lebanon. The U.S. Administration continues to create difficulties and obstacles to liberating the remaining occupied Lebanese territory and to achieving naitonal accord that resorts topeace, security, and normal life to Lebanon.

Gentlemen, a serious phenomenon has recently emerged on the international level, the phenomenon of resorting to the policy of force, military interference, and armed aggression to achieve political objectives. This is what the United States has done with its armed aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. This is what Israel is doing in southern Lebanon and all the occupied Arab territories. This is what Pretoria is doing in the states of southern Africa. This serious phenomenon greatly threatens international relations and is a harbinger of making the world an area which is open to all those who believe they can commit aggression and escape punishment. Those who follow this course in the name of combatting terrorism will be losing their senses if they believe that such a course will curb terrorism. They will be losing their senses too if they confuse terrorism with liberation. They will be losing their senses all the more if they believe that they can prevent acts of liberation by accusing us of being terrorists.

We reject terrorism, condemn and confront it because we do not want it. We have suffered from some of its acts. However, we clearly distinguish between terrorism and the acts of national liberation against occupation, which we support, because it is the right of every people whose land has been occupied or whose rights have been usurped, especially when they carry out these acts in the true arena of struggle.

Venerable President, it pains us that the issue of Cyprus, a friendly neighboring state, continues to lack a solution. The Cyprus issue is one of those problems of interest to the international community in general and of special concern to the Mediterranean states in particular because of its effect on the region's security and stability. A just solution to this issue can be achieved through the implementation of the UN resolutions and the withdrawal of foreign forces in a manner that would safeguard the Cypriot Republic's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and nonaligned policy. This can be achieved through the two Cypriot communities.

We support efforts to make the Mediterranean a peaceful area and to establish a new economic system based on justice and guarantees of the peoples' rights to their natural resources and to using these resources for progress and prosperity.

The dangers threatening our world due to arms race necessitate great efforts to achieve disarmament, to stop efforts to militarize space, to halt nuclear tests, and to reduce nuclear arms to pave the way for their removal in order to protect mankind. Under such circumstances, mankind is in need of commitment to the UN Charter and resolutions and efforts to support the United Nations' role in settling international conflicts. We are working to reinforce the important role that the Nonaligned Movement can play in achieving world peace.

Venerable President, ladies and gentlemen, once again I express confidence that our visit to Greece will achieve our joint desire of promoting relations between our countries and achieving peace, security, and justice in the world. I seize this opportunity to repeat my greetings to President Sartzetakis, wishing him and his wife continued good health and happiness. I also greet my friend Prime Minister Papandreou and his wife, wishing them continued good health and happiness. I wish you all, ladies and gentlemen, a happy life.

Libya Collecting Intelligence on Israeli, U.S. Targets

TA250425 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0400 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Libya is in the process of collecting intelligence information in preparation for attacks on Israeli and U.S. targets in Europe. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami has learned that this operation is being carried out by the Libyan national carrier workers in Europe and by students studying on the continent. This operation is headed by the No. 2 man in Libya, 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, and the head of the Libyan Intelligence. *NEWSWEEK* has reported that the United States had warned Syria against supporting terrorist organizations. According to the weekly, a senior State Department official has conferred with the Syrian ambassador, and presented him with conclusive evidence indicating Syria's involvement in terrorist acts, including the attempt to blow up the El Al plane.

UK Prime Minister Holds Talks With Leaders

Arrival Reported

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew and Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1818 GMT on 24 May begin live coverage of the arrival of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at Ben-Gurion Airport, with both sources reporting that the Royal Air Force plane landed "a few minutes ago." At 1821 GMT the master of ceremonies is seen boarding the plane to accompany the British prime minister down the stairs. Jerusalem Television correspondent Yoram Ronen notes that Thatcher is accompanied by her husband, Dennis, and several of her assistants. At 1823 GMT, Prime Minister Thatcher exits from the plane to the sound of fanfare. She is greeted by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. The two leaders and their respective spouses shake hands and at 1825 GMT the British national anthem is played by the IDF Band. This is followed by the Israeli national anthem. The British prime minister then reviews the guard of honor. At 1829 GMT, she returns to her entourage at the foot of the stairs. Thatcher and Peres then walk down the red carpet, followed by the entourage, and up to the microphone.

At 1831 GMT Prime Minister Shim'on Peres delivers his greetings to the British prime minister in English. At 1834 GMT, Margaret Thatcher takes the podium, thanking the Israeli prime minister for his warm welcome. She concludes her remarks at 1837 GMT, after which she is accompanied by Shim'on Peres down the line of Israeli dignitaries which, the TV announcer notes, includes cabinet ministers, with whom she exchanges words and shakes hands. Both Jerusalem Television Service and Jerusalem Domestic Service end live coverage at 1839 GMT.

Peres Airport Greetings

TA241952 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1831 GMT 24 May 86

[Remarks by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in English on the arrival of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in Israel, live at Ben-Gurion Airport]

[Text] Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher, this is a historic moment because it is the first official visit to Israel by a British prime minister, and because the British-Israeli relations are in themselves an exciting chapter in our own history. It is, therefore, with a special sense of pleasure that I welcome you and Mr Thatcher in the name of the people and Government of Israel, a country whose founding history and political culture have a great closeness to that of the United Kingdom. Britain has had great prime ministers who, at different times, placed there at the leadership position in the free world. [sentence as heard] Your visit, Mrs Thatcher, today holds a special significance, for under your leadership, the United Kingdom is once more in the forefront of the battle for peace and security. Your position in the attempt to stop international terrorism should serve as a shining example to all peace- and freedom-loving nations. So, may I say, in the words of Proverbs: Many daughters have done valiantly, but thou excellest them all.

It is my sincere hope that during your stay here, we shall be able to continue our fruitful dialogue and exchange ideas on a broad range of subjects. I hope that your statesmanship and special relationship with leaders in the Middle East will not only bring both our countries close together, but also help move our region forward toward economic prosperity and a stable peace. Israel receives you, Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher, as honored and welcomed guests. And may I say in Hebrew, barukh bo'akhem beshe'ari yerushalayyim, welcome to the ports of Jerusalem.

Thatcher Airport Remarks

TA242009 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1834 GMT 24 May 86

[Remarks by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in English upon her arrival in Israel — live at Ben-Gurion Airport]

[Text] Mr Prime Minister, may I first thank you for your warm welcome, and say how delighted I am to be in Israel. My visit comes only 4 months after your own very successful and welcome visit to Britain. And this is proof of the gathering momentum of our relations which I believe are as good now as they have ever been. And I pay tribute to the enormous personal contribution which you have made to that. I am no stranger to Israel. I know well the pioneering and resourceful spirit of your people, and I look forward to seeing at first hand some of the remarkable achievements since I was last here, particularly in the fields of science, at the world famous Weizman Institute, and in agricultural research. I shall also be visiting Ashqelon, where I shall be able to see something of how the Jewish community in Britain have been able to help Israel's development. We are very proud of that community and of the unrivaled contribution which it has made to our national life in every field. My visit will also be a chance to continue the very valuable discussions which you and I had, Prime Minister, in New York last October and in London in January.

The Jewish people have built a nation and want to build peace so that you can enjoy the fruits of your success and share them with your neighbors. Peace with security is your goal, and we shall be discussing how we in Britain can help towards that: peace with security for Israel and for other peoples in the region. I am concerned that steps towards negotiations about peace appear to have lost momentum in recent months. I don't believe that is your wish or that of the moderate and far-sighted Arab leaders with whom I have talked in recent months. And I hope we shall be able to explore together practical steps which can be taken to build confidence where there is now distrust and suspicion, and discuss, too, ways in which momentum can be restored to negotiations for a lasting peace which meets the needs of all the peoples of the area.

Prime Minister, I have been to your Arab neighbors as a friend. I come to Israel as a friend, indeed, as an old friend. I want to help if I can. I am proud to be the first prime minister to make an official visit to Israel. I am proud to renew our historic relationship, and I look forward to a happy and stimulating visit. Thank you, Prime Minister.

Thatcher Talks With Kollek

TA250710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was the guest of the City of Jerusalem this morning. After a meeting with her, Mayor Teddy Kollek said that he told Margaret Thatcher about the problems the municipality is facing because of mandatory bylaws that are still in effect. Mr Kollek told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that the guest did not express any view on Jerusalem's status, and the subject will be broached in her meetings with the prime minister and the foreign minister. Mrs Thatcher is currently touring Yad Vashem.

Thatcher Said Carrying Husayn Message

TA250722 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 May 86 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text]On her visit in Israel, which began last night, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is bringing along a personal message from King Husayn to Shim'on Peres. In the message, The king pledges to abide by the tacit agreements between him and Peres that were reached in their latest contacts. Husayn promises not to allow terrorists to organize operations against Israel from Jordanian territory and to keep calm along the border. The Jordanian king also informs Peres that his contacts with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad should not be regarded as contradicting his support for the peace process with Israel.

Prime Minister Peres intends to use the visit to revive the contacts with Husayn. Peres will propose to Husayn to expand the policy of open bridges between the two countries and agricultural cooperation in the 'Arava and the Jordan Rift Valley and to coordinate Israel's policy in the territories. Peres will inform Thatcher that despite terrorist threats he intends to appoint Palestinian mayors acceptable to Jordan soon as part of his policy of liberalization in the territories.

Margaret Thatcher will make another attempt at mediating between Peres and Husayn even before the rotation of the premiership. She has recently conferred with Husayn in London and it seems that the message she is carrying for the prime minister also deals with the future of the peace process.

At the same time, the prime minister will discuss his Marshall Plan for the Middle East in which he also wants to include Britain.Another issue he will raise with her is increasing cooperation in the battle against terrorism. In this context, Peres will reveal to Thatcher information about the involvement of the Syrian Embassy in London in the terrorist attempt against the El Al plane in London.

In the course of the visit, the two leaders will also discuss the sale of British oil to Israel and the lifting of the embargo on British arms sales, which has been in effect since the Lebanese war. Peres will personally accompany Mrs Thatcher in some of her tours, including her trip to Kibbutz Sede Boqer and the Negev. Thatcher will also confer with President Hayim Herzog, Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and other officials.

Visits Yad Vashem

TA250810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 May 86

[Excerpt] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher opened her tour of Jerusalem this morning with a tour of Yad Vashem. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports on her comments there:

[Remez — live] Donning a black hat and a black-and-white dress, Mrs Thatcher toured the Holocaust and Heroics Museum, and once host Re'uven Dafni pointed out that the Allies refrained from bombing Auschwitz, she said: But at the time, we did not know what we know today. This reference to knowledge and recollection was well noted subsequently in her comments. At the Yizkor Hall, Mrs Thatcher knelt before the memorial monument, laid a wreath, and remained bowed for a long time, visibly moved. Signing her name in the visitor's book, she wrote: The world must not ever forget, and then she told correspondents:

[Begin Thatcher recording — in English] I have forgotten how terrible it was. I think the photographs show it more vivdly than any amount of words can say. It is so terrible. Really, everyone should come and see it, so that they never forget. [end recording]

[Remez — live] The photographs showed the bestiality of the holocaust better than words can describe. It was so horrible. Everyone must come and see this so as not to forget. I am convinced, Mrs Thatcher said, that the new generation growing now really knows what we are fighting against.

[Begin Thatcher recording — in English] Too deep to express. There's one picture there, in that museum, of a Nazi firing at a woman who is standing there with a child in her arms, and there's many others which are just deeper than... [changes thought] If you described things and don't see them, you don't realize the full enormity and I had not quite... [fading into superimposed Hebrew translation by Remez] [end recording]

[Remez — live] There is one picture, Mrs Thatcher said, that impressed me most of all. It shows a Nazi firing at a woman with a child in her arms. There are many others a description of which, without words, cannot fully express their horror. I had thus far not realized that there were actually slaughter houses in which the Jews were massacred at a rate of 120,000 a day. Had the war continued for 1 more year, 11 million would have been killed. As it was, even 6 million is too awful; it is the most awful thing the world has ever experienced. If we had not defeated Hitler, she summed up, we would not have been here today.

After her visit to Yad Vashem, Mrs Thatcher left for the Hebrew University, whre she was shown ancient Jewish and other manuscripts from Britain, and where she also met with a fellow student at Oxford. From then, she left for the vocational school in Giv'at Ram, where she inaugurated a new laboratory.

Meets Herzog, Others

TA251025 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 25 May 86

[Excerpts] Earlier today, Mrs Thatcher had breakfast with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek who expressed regret over British nonrecognition of Israeli sovereignty over united Jerusalem.

[Begin recording] [Kollek] Regrettably, her ambassador doesn't come to visit us. Although we like the consul general very much, this is a drawback for our efforts. And, I told her a little bit about what we are doing to try to keep things in Jerusalem on an even keel.

[Correspondent Jack Katzenell] Did she express an interest in the future of Jerusalem?

[Kollek] No, we didn't talk [about this]. I told her that this was a matter for the government of Israel to discuss with her, and not for us. [end recording]

The British prime minister went on to a meeting with Israeli senior editors, followed by an audience with President Hayim Herzog.

Herzog Hosts Lunch

TA251247 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 May 86

[Excerpt] President Herzog praised the antiterror policy of the British prime minister, saying that the Israeli people support her in this. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that in the lunch Herzog gave in honor of Thatcher at his residence he noted that the Israeli people always knew to distinguish between feelings of respect for British tradition and the less pleasant aspects of our past relations. He expressed the hope that Thatcher's talks in Israel will help her better understand our stance.

Visits Ben Gurion Grave

TA260910 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will be the guest of the Knesset this afternoon. She will meet with the Knesset speaker and hear his congratulatory message at the plenary hall. She will then hold a closed meeting with the members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. This evening, Mrs Thatcher will confer with personalities from the territories.

This morning, the visitor toured Sede Boqer. She toured the Ben-Gurion University's Ben-Center for Desert Research, prior to which she laid a wreath on David Ben-Gurion's grave, saying that she has long been an admirer of the man because she believes he represented the best in leadership.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres escorted Mrs Thatcher on her visit to Sede Boqer.

Meets Peres, Other Activity

TA251332 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has just begun her political talks in Jerusalem with a meeting with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres at his office. Afterward she will confer with Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Today Thatcher met with Ida Nudel's sister, and promised her that she and her government will continue to work for the immigration to Israel of Ida Nudel and all other Soviet Jews who want to emigrate. She said that she had told Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that an improvement in relations between London and Moscow is conditional upon a change in the attitude toward Soviet Jewry.

This morning Mrs Thatcher also visited the ORT [Organization for Rehabilitation through Training] College in Jerusalem where she spoke with students who are preparing an electronic voting system for the Knesset, like the one used in Britain. She told the students about voting procedures in the mother of all parliaments.

Comments on Peres Talks

TA251622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said that in her talk with the Israeli prime minister she expressed her concern over the loss of momentum in the peace process. At the end of the meeting she told journalists that in 3 weeks she will meet with King Husayn and discuss this matter with him. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that Mrs Thatcher took a favorable view of his plan for economic development in the Middle East, and that discussion of this plan will continue. The two leaders agreed not to elaborate on this issue.

Thatcher Statement on Peres Talks

TA251732 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 May 86

[Statement in English by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher following her meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 25 May — videorecorded]

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen, Prime Minister, if I might make a very brief statement to you: The prime minister, Mr Peres, and I have had excellent and very constructive talks. We have discussed those problems which you would expect us to discuss: the state of the world economy; the oil price and its effect on various different countries and economies of various different countries; above all, we have talked about the whole Middle Eastern problem, and my concern — and I think the prime minister's concern — that there is a vacuum in negotiations at the moment and also a number of economic problems as well, but that we should not be depressed about that, but that we should use it as an opportunity to try to be constructive, so that there may still be some hope for the many peoples in the Middle East who look for negotiated settlement, and who look for leadership from those who might be able to bring it about.

I shall of course be in touch with King Husayn in about 3 weeks' time when he comes to London. And, of course, we are constantly in touch with both our European allies and also, frequently, with the United States of America. So, in a way, the talk that the prime minister and I have had today is part of a continuous process of trying to find negotiations which bring new hope to people on this very great problem whose solution has eluded us for so long. We have also, as you would expect, discussed the Iran-Iraq war, and the added consequences of that to the Middle East problem. So, altogether, most excellent and very constructive, and as you would know, very friendly and heartwarming talks. Thank you.

Peres on Talks

TA251703 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 25 May 86

[Excerpts] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said that in her talk with Prime Minister Peres she expressed her concern over the loss of momentum in the peace process. At the end of the meeting she told journalists that she would meet with King Husayn in 3 weeks and discuss this matter with him. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports on the political talk this afternoon between Thatcher and Peres:

[Begin recording] [Remez] Following approximately 2 hours of talks Thatcher and Peres first set aside time to cross the road opposite the Prime Minister's Office and to wave and smile encouragingly at the runners of Sportaid, the run for the hunger-stricken in Africa. Afterward, amid the mob of photographers and journalists who pursued them through the narrow gates, Mrs Thatcher delivered a short agreed-upon statement.

[Peres, in English] I agree completely with the prime minister. May I say, Yes, Prime Minister? [laughter]

[Remez] In agreement with Mrs Thatcher, Mr Peres does not reveal any more details, but he answered my question as to whether the fact that the economic situation was mentioned signifies that Mrs Thatcher, on behalf of Britain, promised to support the economic development plan for the Middle East which the prime ministe is proposing.

[Peres] I think that her attitude was positive in general. We will still continue these talks.

[Remez] Afterward it was reported from the Prime Minister's Office that Mrs Thatcher had expressed willingness to continue to examine the possibility of implementing the economic plan, with both the U.S. Administration and European leaders. As for Mrs Thatcher's role in the Middle East, it was reported from the Prime Minister's Office that Mr Peres expressed the hope that she would be able to play a personal role in bringing the sides together in negotiations which in turn would promote regional peace. Mrs Thatcher expressed the belief that King Husayn is also inclined toward peace, and that in her opinion, efforts to reach that same peace should be supported.

Regarding the mutual relations between Israel and Britain, the two prime ministers said they are now very friendly. [end recording]

Shamir, Thatcher Meet

TA251738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 May 86

[Talk in the studio between program announcer Re'uven David Miller and correspondent Jack Katzenell on the meeting between British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir — live]

[Text] [Miller] Prime Minister Thatcher has just had a meeting with Israel's Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Just back from the King David Hotel where the meeting took place is reporter Jack Katzenell. Jack, what can you tell us about Mrs Thatcher's meetings with Shamir and Prime Minister Peres?

[Katzenell] Well, both the British side and the Israel participants are stressing that the meetings were very very cordial, very productive. But when you get down to the substance, it appears that the British side has been laying very heavy stress on the Palestinian issue, for example, saying that yes, Prime Minister Peres' efforts to improve the atmosphere, to improve the economy in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip are fine as far as they go, but the British feel that a great deal more could be done. The same applies to his efforts to delegate more responsibility to the Arab leaders in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The British are thinking in terms of implementing the Camp David agreements on this particular issue, and stressing that for a democracy, the situation where you have two peoples with different rights under the same government is inadmissable in the long run.

[Miller] Is there any truth in the rumors that Mrs Thatcher brought a message from King Husayn?

[Katzenell] Not in a formal sense. She did not bring a letter from King Husayn, and both sides say that. On the other hand, she met King Husayn recently and President Mubarak, and she certainly was presenting their views as she saw them to Prime Minister Peres.

[Miller] Finally, Jack, was anything substantive achieved at today's meeting?

[Katzenell] As far as we can tell, no. Both sides described the talks as exploratory, where they are trying to seek out ways to revive the peace process. And so, as far as agreements go or decisions, I think the answer is no.

Thatcher Visits Knesset

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1304 GMT on 26 May begins a live broadcast from the Knesset in Jerusalem of the festive session in honor of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The announcer says that, after being met in a ceremony outside the Knesset and holding a brief talk with the speaker, Thatcher is led to a seat in the visitors gallery.

Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel's greeting remarks are picked up in progress. He speaks about Britain's courageous stand during World War II and expresses the gratitude of the free world for this stand. He notes that "today, in the face of the outbreak of a new form of oppression that seeks to eliminate the freedom of human beings and nations through cruel and abominable terrorism, there are many leaders in the world who think that they can and should ignore this trend, put up with terrorism, and even cooperate with it. Today, as during World War II, the determination and steadfastness of those who are willing to sacrifice a great deal to uphold the freedom of humanity stand out. Among these courageous and distinguished countries, Britain today takes the place it deserves in Europe as the leader of this struggle, and for that we express our appreciation and gratitude."

The Knesset speaker says that in the few days Thatcher has been in Israel, she has tried very hard to visit as many places and people as possible. He expresses the hope that the visit and meetings she has been holding "will increase the understanding and friendship between us. On my behalf and on the behalf of the Knesset members I would like to welcome Mrs Thatcher and her entourage and wish her a happy stay with us." Mr Hilel then repeats his greetings in English and gives the podium to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

Peres begins his remarks to the Knesset at 1308 GMT. He comments on the visit to Sede Boqer, on which he accompanied Mrs Thatcher, saying that while standing next to David Ben-Gurion's grave he felt that a historic chapter was closing while a new one was opening. He says that the British guest was accorded a warm welcome in Ashqelon and at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot. The prime minister talks about the "unique relations" between Britain and Israel throughout history, beginning with Lord Balfour and continuing with Churchill and other leaders who have stood by the Jewish people and the Israeli state. Peres notes that despite controversies and differences in the past, "today, through historical hindsight, the memories amount to a positive balance."

Peres goes on to laud Britain for its important contribution to the free world in being the mother of Parliaments and bequeathing democracy to the world.

The prime minister goes on to note that there are agreements as well as disagreements between Israel and Britain, noting on behalf on the Knesset plenum the agreements: "We agree on the desire to see a calm Middle East, a Middle East of peace, and a Middle East in which Jews, Arabs, and Druze, as well as Jews, Christians, and Muslims do not live in hatred but in peace. Even if we do not always agree on the means, I do not make light of the goodwill that the British prime minister brings to this region in an effort to contribute to reviving the peace process in our midst."

Peres concludes by telling Mrs Thatcher that she represents a country "to which we have never been indifferent, a country whose contribution to our life as a nation, state, and as members of the Jewish people we will never forget. We have great respect for your courage, leadership, and your attempt to put Britain on its feet and take its place in the world not with an empire but with a point of view. We respect your leadership, we remember the past and we share in the future. We welcome you in our midst."

The live broadcast ends at 1315 GMT with a remark by the announcer that Prime Minister Peres' speech had not been scheduled and that the British prime minister is now going to attend a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He adds that later she will host a reception at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem and confer with Palestinian leaders from the territories at the British Consulate in Jerusalem.

No 'Arafat Meeting During EC Presidency

TA261617 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] In the working talks held by the British prime minister in Jerusalem, it was announced that British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, who will be appointed president of the EC next month, will not confer with Yasir 'Arafat during his tenure. Our political correspondent has learned that in the wake of the meeting held by Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek with 'Arafat in Tunis, the British were asked to abstain from holding such meetings at a time when the status of the PLO and 'Arafat is on the decline, in order to discourage terrorism and PLO extremists. Members of Mrs Thatcher's entourage indeed promised that during the British tenure in the EC Presidency, such meetings will not take place.

Peres Address at Dinner for Thatcher

TA252245 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 25 May 86

["Text" of address delivered by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres at a state dinner at the Knesset in honor of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on 25 May; the beginning of the prime minister's remarks are not included for technical reasons — GPO note]

[Text] We are so pleased to have you in Jerusalem. I won't be a typical Israeli; I shall remain modest all the time and just pay compliments to Great Britain. I feel at least on the one issue we are better than you are: and that is that we have had a lady prime minister before you have. And not only do we cherish that experience, we don't regret it. As a matter of fact, we saw Mrs. Golda Meir at war as a leader, and politics (inaudible) and otherwise as such a fine lady, with motherly feelings, that we have learned to admire her being prime minister, and to admire the way she has set an example so dear to our heart. So if the British people ask us beforehand, we would strongly recommend (inaudible) a lady prime minister in their own history, and I'm sure that following us, the British people are not disappointed in having this very unique and important experience.

It took us 38 years for us to earn your visit here. Would you come at another occasion, you would never have seen Mr. Shamir and myself sitting at the same table in a reception for a British prime minister. And today, being free of controversy and arguments, I can share a deep feeling for the history of cooperation between Great Britain and Israel, from the Balfour Declaration to this very evening where you have set an important precedent in the annals of our relationship. We are free today to remember, we are free to cooperate, and we feel that you came not just to add another chapter to our history, but on a mission of good will. Being yourself a politician of convictions, as you call it, you really have come and tried to add to the attempt to bring peace to this historic, troublesome region which is called the Middle East.

From our point of view, the existing relations between Great Britain and the Arab countries is an advantage as the path that you have walked among Arab leaders is an added advantage because finally we too would like to live in peace and understanding with the Arab countries and the Arab leaders. And I am sure that you can add a great deal to the climate and strategy of peace in the Middle East. Surely right now we are facing a great deal of difficulties, obstacles on the road of peace, yet we have to maintain a climate of hope, a strategy of patience that may renew the momentum of peace in the Middle East.

Our own agenda in order to follow this process begins really in our efforts to settle the outstanding issues between Egypt and ourselves. A great deal was done already in the past, and the remaining straits are not too wide to overcome. Right now we are in the middle of negotiating to complete the full agreement with Egypt, hoping that not only shall we settle these agreements, but we shall open a wide door where both Egypt and ourselves together can bring our countries into the camp of peace and offer joint suggestions on the burning issues of the day.

The second point on our agenda, and I know Mrs. Prime Minister that you are very sensitive to it, is our coexistence with the Arab people residing on the West Bank and Gaza. No matter what the permanent solution will be, but as for today and every day, we would like to see them live in peace, in security, in economic progress. We feel that even temporary measures may be of a permanent nature, remembering that both of us, their people and our people, have to live forever together as neighbors, one close to the other. And you will find I'm sure in our country a sincere readiness to improve the conditions and the quality of life of the people, the Arab people, who live in the territories. I know that you are meeting some of their leaders tomorrow; and I believe you can surely deliver these very deep and sincere feelings on our side. Our enemies were never a nation, were never a people; our problem is always hostility and belligerency, and that we would like to overcome.

Then again, we hope that the day will come when we will be able to meet face to face with the Jordanian leadership and King Husayn, whom you know so well, and who we feel too is looking for a peaceful solution between his country and ours and for the solution of the Palestinian problem. From our point of view, we wish the King will overcome the curtain of timidity, of shyness, and meet face to face with us. And while we start at the point of disagreement, there is still room for real ingenuity, for solutions that were neither announced nor even thought of, but which lay in the future and that may permit him and us to solve a problem which is so hard upon him and so difficult upon us.

The fourth issue on our agenda is surely the recent tension that was raised between Syria and ourselves. And I'm not sure that the Syrians are ready to meet with us again on a face to face level and discuss the prospects for peace, but even if we don't have peace, if we don't sense a readiness on the part of the Syrians to go in a peaceful direction, the prevention of war, the deescalation of the rhetoric, is again an immediate need which we on the Israeli side are ready to contribute, (inaudible) namely not to translate declarations and suspicions into a full-fledged war.

Then again, we appreciate very much the position that President Reagan, and you Mrs. Thatcher took in trying to bring an end to capitulation to terror. I would like just to mention another angle of the international terror, and that is that the international terror in fact terrorizes the leaders of the Middle East. I think the real victims of terror, not only in physical terms but in political terms, are many Arab leaders who are simply frightened or paralyzed by the existence of threats by the terrorist organizations to move in a direction that they themselves may be convinced is necessary for their own destinies and their own (inaudible). Mayors, presidents, ministers, were on so many occasions threatened and even assassinated, that many others of them are worried or frightened to take the necessary steps and speak. The serious attempt under the leadership of the United States and the United Kingdom to bring an end to this frightening campaign which endangered the lives of so many innocent people, which paralyzed the processes of good will and hopeful occasion, is really a great hope for our nation.

And then, finally, I do believe the over-riding problem in the region right now is the economic situation very much, because the drop in the price of oil — which has affected not so much the oil-producing countries, but the countries that are neighbors with the oil-producing countries. Countries like Egypt or Jordan or others, who were helped, with heavy contributions of wealth, of commerce with the oil-producing countries, lost those opportunities and are facing immediately an economic crisis. We cannot solve the economic crisis of other countries. But we are surely interested in seeing countries like Egypt and Jordan doing well economically, in a mood to negotiate, and not becoming a victim of an impossible crisis that may overshadow the chances for peace and progress. Very few people realize that the annual Middle Eastern military expenditure has increased from $23.8 billion in 1973 to $60.9 billion in 1983, three times as much in a region eaten up by poverty and starvation. And I am afraid that many of our countries are beating their plowshares into swords, instead of putting it the other way around. There is a real need, for the good of the people, Arabs and Jews, young and old, Muslims and Christians, that we change the priorities. To grow and invest in the future of (inaudible). To cut the expenditure of the military budget, to invest more in the social infrastructure, in the economic well-being.... I would say that hopeless as peace may sometimes seem, the politics of force are even more hopeless. We have to go from the politics of war to the politics of peace, which will benefit all of us equally.

Mrs. Thatcher it is a real pleasure and a moving occasion for our country, for our people, to have you here in the united, independent Jerusalem, as a great representative of the great British people, as a lady who became a world leader in her own right. I think you have felt this in the short time you're here, wherever you went. It stems from the deep depths of our conviction and the depths of our feeling. It is in that sense that I shall raise my glass. Ladies and gentlemen, may I ask you to rise and raise our glass to the Queen of England, to the prime minister and Mr. Thatcher, our welcome guests. Lehayyim [to life].

Thatcher Address

TA262322 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1956 GMT 25 May 86

[Speech by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during a dinner given in her honor in the Jerusalem Knesset by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres on 25 May — live. Speech given in English with superimposed Hebrew translation by announcer Gid'on Remez]

[Text] Prime Minister, Mr Speaker, Honorable Members of the Knesset, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. It was only 4 months ago that we welcomed you, Prime Minister, to number 10 Downing Street, and now it is my turn to pay the first visit to Israel by a British prime minister while in office. [applause] No one can accuse us, Prime Minister, of letting grass grow under our feet, not even with Israeli agricultural technique. The reason for my return so quickly was perhaps twofold. First, because of the success of your visit, Prime Minister, to London — and it was a tremendous success. It was as though we felt our views were in tune, one with the other's. Also, the way in which we both felt we would have to tackle enormous problems left over from the past; and to which our people provided the answer. But also because of a fundamental feeling that I felt it was time for a British prime minister to pay a visit to Israel, to say how much we admire everything that this country has achieved, and the values it stands for in its love of liberty and justice, in this entire region and the world. Of course I am not a stranger to Israel. I traveled here both privately and as the deputy secretary of education. I am proud to be an honorary doctor, a title awarded me by the Tel Aviv University, and to have a chair in the world-renowned Weizman Institute. My daughter worked on a kibbutz. My constituency of Finchley is a twin city of Ramat Gan which we will visit the day after tomorrow. So, as you see, my family knows Israel quite well. Now, we are not unique in that. Admiration and affection for Israel are high in Britain.

At the dinner in your honor in my residence, Prime Minister, I spoke of Israel's remarkable achievements, and reminded our guests that Israel was small in geography but large in history. And I recalled a saying by a British sage who once said: The nations to which humanity owes the largest debt have been the smallest — Israel, Athens, Florence, Elizabethan England. And I say particularly this evening, Prime Minister, how much we appreciate the remarkable way in which your government tackled Israel's economic problems. No one would have predicted a few years ago that you could achieve such success, which only outstanding determination could achieve.

There are so many personal links between Israel and Britain. No one symbolized this better than Hayim Weizman [Israel's first president] whom both our countries are proud to call their son. We will never forget that his younger son was among the brave young men who gave their lives in the service of the Royal Air Force, in the defense of freedom and liberty in World War II. We also acknowledge with pride the outstanding contribution of British Jewry to the life of our country. Their influence has always vastly exceeded their number, and rightly so. They have demonstrated that in Britain Jews have provided leadership and inspiration in every field of activity; they have been motivated by the desire to contribute to the community, not only to benefit from it. We also respect the outstanding contribution that the British Jews made to Israel's development, and I will see more of that myself when I visit Ashqelon tomorrow.

Prime Minister, we in Britain have absorbed from the Jewish tradition some of the fundamentals of our society: Jewish contribution to the rule of law, of which President Herzog spoke so emotionally in London 2 years ago, and the deep respect we both have for the worth of the individual and his rights. Respect does not come from any state; rights are God-given, not man-given. That is why we are one with you in fighting for the right of Jews in the Soviet Union. The immigration of distressed Jews is at the very heart of Israel's existence. We shared your joy at the release of Anatoliy Shcharanskiy and his new life in Israel, about his reunion with his wife who had toiled so much for his release and had never given up hope. Their happiness is an incentive, a remarkable lesson to peoples and countries that despite the difficulties they went on ceaselessly and never gave up hope. Their happiness is an incentive for all of us to work even harder for the rights of others.

Only today I met Ida Nudel's sister. Her story is a tragic and painful one. We must not allow her case and many other similar cases to be forgotten. I spoke on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the United Nations and told the governments gathered there: South Africa is rightly condemned for denying the blacks basic human rights, but where are the decisions about the treatment of Soviet Jewry? Their absence is a sad commentary on the double standards of the United Nations. We must continue to take every opportunity to keep the position of Soviet Jewry at the forefront in the United Nations. I believe in my heart that persistence in this just cause will be rewarded.

There is another threat to human rights, against which we have to defend ourselves: the threats from the terrorists. No political cause, no ethnic grievance, nothing justifies terror, nothing, least of all state-sponsored terrorism, from which both our countries have suffered. To appease terrorists is to concede victory to them, and to condemn more people to lose their lives. We must instead face up to it with determination, to isolate the terrorists and those who give them cover. That is what we agreed to do at the Tokyo economic summit. We hope as many other governments as possible, including the Soviet Union, will follow us.

It is never easy to preserve faith and hope in the progress toward peace in the Middle East, after so many disappointments. But your reputation, Prime Minister, as a man of peace, a man who is dedicated to seeking peace with Israel's neighbors, gives ground for hope.

We have heard with interest your proposals for economic aid to promote cooperation throughout the region. We share your belief in the importance of raising living standards. That is the way to increase political stability. And we know you recognize that these proposals cannot be a substitute for a policy of peace with security for Israel and for all the states in the region. We support that goal. We believe that you will only find the security you seek by recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their just requirements, a phrase which comes not from me, but from one of the agreements to which Israel put her name.

Prime Minister, the standards you have set yourselves in Israel are of the highest. You want those same standards observed for the Jewish people wherever they are, and you campaign vigorously for them. Because of your own high standards, more is expected of Israel than of other countries. And that is why the world looks to Israel to safeguard the rights of Arabs in the occupied territories in accordance with the principles which Israel respects and demands should be respected elsewhere. A future in which two classes of people have to coexist with different rights and different standards is surely not one which Israel can accept, nor one which Israel's reputation allows. As a people whose own history is so intimately connected with the whole history of Palestine and the birth of the State of Israel, we know, as so many of your own people know in their hearts: The situation we have now in the occupied territories can only be temporary. There are practical steps which could be taken now in the occupied territories as a prelude to an eventual settlement to bring the goal of peace with security for Israel closer to realization: further measures to promote economic development for the Arab population on the West Bank and in Gaza; humanitarian steps some of which you have taken, such as the reunification of Palestinian families.

In the agreement to which I referred you recognized the Palestinians' right to elect their own representatives. Cannot more be done now to help the Palestinians play a greater role in managing their own affairs? Surely that is the best way, despite all the difficulties, to encourage the emergence of responsible political leaders ready for peace.

You mentioned Golda Meir. Of course, in a way, I am following her. I knew her and admired her very much. I admired her as a leader in war, I admired her tremendous courage, her pioneering. I admired her as a great human being, warm, thoughtful and kind. What did Golda Meir say in her autobiography? She said this: My vision of our future is of an Israel bound in a collaborative effort with its neighbors on behalf of all peoples in the region, Israel that remains a flourishing democracy, and a society which rests on social justice and equality. That justice, that democracy which embraces the right of free peoples to determine their future surely have to be extended to all, including the Palestinians. This will greatly strengthen Israel's moral authority. Prime Minister, Britain is committed to a stable and secure future for the people of Israel. It could never lose sight of that larger vision. I recall that when President Herzog was in London he spoke of Israel's dream, of the day when peace will come. If we can make that peace come true, not only will the whole Middle East, but the whole world will change. We, all of us, have a stake in peace in the Middle East.

I was also a great admirer of Ben-Gurion, and I remember his words: The Jews are chronic idealists. He was; so am I; so are you Prime Minister; so is Israel; so is Britain. We could not live without liberty and justice. Our life would have neither dignity, nor meaning. I cannot tell you how much it means to me to have the privilege of speaking in this great building, the Knesset; to come from the mother of parliaments to this Knesset and to speak in this hall, to speak here where you housed such a rich heritage, to speak here where you returned and where you contributed so much to the future of your people and the world. May I ask, in that spirit, that you rise and drink with me to the life of the president of Israel, to the Knesset, to the prime minister, and to the future of this country. [applause]

Thatcher Denies UN Proposal

TA261541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Speaking to our correspondent Gid'on Remez, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher denied reports that she had proposed appointing a UN official to deal with affairs in the territories. After conferring with four members of the Knesset Forcing Affairs and Defense Committee, Mrs Thatcher told our correspondent that she had listened to the views and fears of the Knesset Members and that she also is of the opinion that there can be no peace in the absence of security for Israel.

Rabin On Talk With Thatcher

TA261015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 26 May 86

[Excerpt] During her visit in Israel, British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher raised several ideas regarding Israel's policy in the territories. This morning, Margaret Thatcher met with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who later told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that she did not put forward any proposals. Rabin expressed disappointment with Europe's contribution toward the attainment of the very goals Mrs Thatcher is preaching.

[Begin Rabin recording] The idea would not enter my mind that someone would share with us the responsibility for what is happening in the territories. We will be happy to have more countries assist, not only in word but also in deed, in everything pertaining to the improvement of the quality of life and standard of living in the territories. [end recording]

Further Details

TA261045 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1025 GMT 26 May 86

[Report by foreign affairs news editor Gid'on Remez]

[Excerpt] Official British sources denied that in her political talks, their prime minister proposed that a UN official be appointed to handle the affairs of the territories, just as they claimed, she did not bring with her any specific suggestion. However, I have learned that she nevertheless mentioned the possibility, taking a favorable attitude toward it. This was done in one of her meetings yesterday, apparently in her meeting with the newspaper editors association, although she did not present the idea as her own.

This morning, contrary to her practices, Mrs Thatcher refrained from approaching journalists upon emerging from a meeting with Defense Minister Rabin, who is responsible for the territories. We asked him whether she had proposed the appointment of a UN official:

[Begin Rabin recording] That proposal was not broached. All that was mentioned in my talk with her was more my presentation of the security problems in general. Let me add that I also pointed out that Israel is prepared to accept assistance from other countries in order to truly improve the standard of living in the territories. I pointed out that several Arab countries contributed to the matter at the time, and still contribute directly to certain specific municipalities in areas pertaining to the welfare of the inhabitants, that UN bodies such as UNRWA and UNDP are active, as is the United States, and I emphasized that Europe in fact is doing very little, or nearly nothing, in that respect. [end recording]

So, has Mrs Thatcher responded to the challenge and offered British assistance for the territories?

[Begin Rabin recording] I did not come to ask anything. I only came to present things and also to note that I would very much like Europe not only to voice instructions on what should be done, but to demonstrate some kind of readiness to invest something — not toward our welfare, but toward the welfare of the Palestinians who live in the territories. [end recording]

The state of relations with Syria, Rabin said, was broached at the meeting in connection with terrorism. Damascus, he claimed, has over the past 6 months shown greater readiness to take risks in this sphere, as manifest in the attempted attack in Lebanon, and also in the realm of the military contact with Israel directly, or in Lebanon. Israel's policy does not advocate initiating a military confrontation, but neither do we believe in allowing Syria to indulge in the illusion that it could surprise us.

The matter of the senior official was not raised at the meeting with Thatcher, and Mr Rabin, furthermore, was not prepared to say anything about it.

Rabin on W. Bank Mayor Elections

TA261603 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 May 86

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Excerpts] The condition of Arabs in the territories and a solution to their political and economic problems featured prominently in yesterday's speech by the British prime minister and naturally also in her meeting this morning with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is in charge of these matters. Rabin reviewed with Thatcher Israel's policy in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, antiterrorism measures, and the acts adopted in order to promote the quality of life there.

As for the possibility Maragaret Thatcher raised regarding free elections for mayors in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Rabin's answer was unequivocal and negative. Israel, he said, would be prepared to be the second country if any other country in the Arab world instituted free elections for mayoral positions. It would seem very strange to me the defense minister added, for the first place in the Arab world to have mayoral elections to be the so-called Israeli-occupied territory.

Other issues in Rabin's talk with Thatcher included the situation in Lebanon and Syria's military and terrorist activity. As for tightening international cooperation in the war against terrorism, Rabin told journalists he does not think there is any problem in cooperation between Israel and European countries, including Britain, and it was therefore completely unnecessary to discuss this issue.

Thatcher News Conference 27 May

TA270816 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0647 GMT 27 May 86

[News conference with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, in English — live]

[Text] [Thatcher] Ladies and gentlemen, I think that those of you who have followed me around during these last few days, and there seem to be literally hundreds of you, in pursuit of a story and pictures, will know how much I have enjoyed this and how much I felt the friendliness and warmth of the Israeli people, both to Britain and the presence of a British prime minister, and I think you can all testify to that warmth wherever we've been. I have to leave shortly to go home and I shall go greatly touched by the welcome I have received here. It has been a deeply moving few days. The main purpose of my visit, apart from actually coming here as British prime minister to further the excellent relations between our two countries, has of course been to see if I could help to get the Arab-Israeli peace process moving again, not for us to decide the result of it, not for us to say precisely what should happen, but for us to see if there is anything we can do to get negotiations started. My talks with Mr Peres, which I have greatly enjoyed and I greatly appreciate the amount of time which he has spent with me during my visit and going around with m[illegible] my talks also with Mr Shamir, Mr Rabin, with Mr Eban and his colleagues in the Defense and Foreign Relations Committee in the Knesset, and many other Israelis, all encourage me to keep on trying to see if we can get the negotiation process started again. First, I count it a plus that I can talk freely and frankly with representatives both of the Israeli Government and also of the Arab states and with prominent Palestinians in this same capital, and I shall do my best to keep the trust of all of them.

I think, also, it's perfectly clear there are plenty of people on all sides who want a settlement which secures peace with security, the only real basis for true peace, and my deep concern about the lack of any initiative at the present time, with all the dangers that a vacuum will bring, is also, I think, widely shared and appreciated in Israel. And next, I have found recognition among Israelis that it is not in Israel's long-term interest to be an occupying power and they wish, too, to find a solution that will bring them peace with security. There are also a number of ideas of how some progress might be made, but there is as yet no clear, let alone agreed, route from where we are now to where we wish to be to bring a long-term settlement and a long-term peace to this dispute. It is not surprising that we can't suddenly find some new way, because people have been trying to do that for a long time. What I think is heartening is that we know we must continue to try and that we believe we shall one day find a solution to this deep-seated problem. On each and every occasion my discussions have come back to the one word, not whether we make progress, but how we shall make that progress. Now I shall consider very deeply all the things which have been said to me, the impressions which I have received from the many people to whom I have spoken to see how we and other nations can help forward this vital negotiating process. Now, ladies and gentlemen, would you like [sentence interrupted by superimposition of IDF Radio announcer summarizing the above in Hebrew translation]

[Bruno (Walterthal), CBS News] Last night the Palestinian leaders reaffirmed their support for the PLO and the policies of its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, meaning, among other things, a rejection of Security Council Resolution 242. I wanted to know your reaction to this and also the fact that these Palestinian leaders roundly condemned Britain's role in the American air strike on Libya.

[Thatcher] Well, with regard to the latter one, they may have done that to you, but the matter was not discussed between us.

[(Walterthal)] The manifesto which they ...

[Thatcher, interrupting] Well, the matter was not discussed between us. I was mainly concerned in meeting them to see how we could help the negotiating process forward and they were very clear that they did not, that they rejected terrorism as a way of solving any solution, of solving any problem [words indistinct] in any way. I found them constructive [words indistinct] wanting a way forward, wanting negotiations which would of course achieve their objective, so I would not agree with the premises on which your question was based.

[(Walterthal)] Would you say that they endorsed 242?

[Thatcher] No, we did not discuss specifically 242, but they were very clear and I did indicate to them that my own small initiative in the closing months of last year had been to persuade the PLO to accept Resolution 242 and to renounce terrorism, and it is on that basis and that basis only that [words indistinct] forward with the people whom I had been going to meet to consider further negotiations, and I made that abundantly clear, the acceptance of 242 and the rejection of terrorism.

[Gid'on Remez, Voice of Israel] You have visited all parts of our city of Jerusalem and met with our mayor. Could we have your impression of the state of affairs in Jerusalem today and your position on the present and future status of our city?

[Thatcher] I think you are asking me to get involved in...

[Remez] I certainly am, ma'am.

[Thatcher] Internal politics...

[Remez] No, international politics.

[Thatcher] I have been very, very happy with my visit and very pleased with all the talks I have had, with the frankness in which we have been able to discuss all of these matters and the friendliness which persists, perhaps because we are British and Israeli and there is a fundamental friendliness there. I've been very happy with the discussions, with the way in which they have been conducted, and with the reception which I've received everywhere.

[Remez] I was referring to the status of Jerusalem, the city of Jerusalem.

[Thatcher] Yes, if you go on referring to it, I am not going to make any [words indistinct]. Thank you very much.

[Leslie (Berkeley), British Jewish press] Prime Minister, what is your own message for us to give specifically to British Jewry after your very successful visit?

[Thatcher] That relations between Britain and Israel are good, that we can talk about current problems and freely and frankly, that, in fact, as I indicated I think in the fourth point I made in my opening statement, that I think nearly all the people I have met in Israel, whether in government or other Israelis, have recognized it's not in Israel's long-term interest to be an occupying power and they don't wish to be an occupying power. What they do wish is to have peace with security and all our efforts must be designed to achieve that end, both Israel and, of course, the other Arab states. It isn't [words indistinct] unless you can preserve your own security, but that the relations are good. Not only good — warm and friendly.

[Indistinct correspondent's question on the Kurt Waldheim affair]

[Thatcher] I must give you full marks for trying. Thank you very much. Are you also going to ask a topical question on the visit to Israel, too? Then do, please.

[Unidentified correspondent] No, I would prefer to know your opinion about the jail for the Argentine generals, who fought with you, over the Falkland Islands?

[Thatcher] The British position on the Falkland Islands is as it has always been. We do not, are not, and will not negotiate on sovereignty. That's that one. The position with Gibraltar is as it has always been. We have a guarantee to the people of Gibraltar, which is part of their constitution, that there will be no change in the status of Gibraltar. That guarantee, too, remains, so I have nothing further to report to you on your two questions as a result of this visit. [laughter]

[Alan Ben-'Ami] Prime Minister, what assurances were you able to give Ilana Friedman and the Israeli Government about British efforts on behalf of Ida Nudel and Soviet Jewry in general?

[Thatcher] That we will continue to work for the release of Soviet Jewry and particularly for certain people, but also, when we work for the release of certain named people, we have to remember there are an awful lot whose names we don't know who also go on living courageously and bravely under very difficult circumstances, and you will recall that when I made my own speech on the 40th anniversary of the United Nations, I think I was one person who did say, look, the United Nations is forever condemning, and rightly so, the lack of rights on the part of some of the black South Africans in South Africa, but where are the resolutions on the treatment of the Soviet Union of Soviet Jewry? So we shall continue to work, as we always have, under our belief in human rights, for the release of Soviet Jewry and particularly for certain named people whose relief at — not only at the release of another [words indistinct] restore hope to other people who are there [words indistinct] another person who can come to Israel, but as a beacon of sure hope to other people who are there. So we shall continue to work for the release of Ida Nudel.

[Name indistinct, correspondent of East Jerusalem Arab paper, [*AL-'AWDAH*] Mrs Prime Minister, what is the interpretation, your own interpretation, of the phrase of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their just requirements which you referred to in your Sunday's [word indistinct] address before Prime Minister Peres?

[Thatcher] As you know, we support the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people, we believe that the present proposal of a federation with Jordan will be the one most likely to achieve success and be welcomed among the states concerned and among the wider world.

[*AL-'AWDAH*] [Words indistinct] independent Palestinian state?

[Thatcher] I have indicated what I think the best and acceptable solution would be, and you try always, when you're working on these matters, to go for the solution which will achieve widest acceptance because [words indistinct] other difficulties and other problems. I would stress very strongly indeed, especially having been once again — it is my third visit to the Israel Memorial [Yad Vashem]; you cannot go round that memorial without having a heightened awareness and understanding of the desire, fundamental desire of the Israeli people for peace with security. Just go round it, and round it again, and you will know that security is actually an enormously significant part. We tend to have it because we defend ourselves and our security lies in our deterrence of an aggressor. Israel and her people have faced something of a quite different order from any of the rest of us and therefore Israel puts tremendous emphasis on security and anyone who is negotiating with her, I think must appreciate that [word indistinct]. The acceptable solution would be the one which is running most strongly at the moment, which would be some kind of federation with Jordan.

[Ian Murray, London *TIMES*] Prime Minister, from what you've seen and heard during your visit, do you think it is possible to restore the momentum for peace in the Middle East in this area until the Israeli Government is prepared to talk to the PLO?

[Thatcher] [Words indistinct] representation other than the PLO, obviously, who if not the PLO, who should represent the Palestinian people, and obviously there have been a number of proposals put forward, but you must never stop trying and I think there perhaps might be different views as to who should represent the Palestinian people, but we must consider an alternative, because we must, simply must follow all routes, but we know that you simply cannot have negotiations between King Husayn and Israel unless King Husayn is accompanied by people who are accepted as representing the Palestinian people. You're quite right, there is not yet a solution. We must still try to find one and that is the way, that is the matter which we must consider most closely.

[Jay Bushinsky, INN News] Madame Prime Minister, I would like to ask you, Mrs Thatcher, if you think that in your forthcoming talks with the King of Jordan you will now be in a position to discuss or propose a substantive basis, if not a format, for renewed negotiations, direct or indirect, between the King of Jordan and Israel?

[Thatcher] We will have a lot more to talk about as a result of this visit. You wouldn't expect me to say precisely what, but it has been an extremely interesting visit. I'm not going to say everything which has been said to me either on the part of Israeli ministers or on the part of Palestinians who have spoken to me, but it has been very, very valuable and I shall have a lot more to talk about with the king and, of course, one will try to find a way forward. Yes.

[Unidentified correspondent] It has been suggested that economic progress [words indistinct]. Do you see a role for British policy and European policy as well as American in contributing economic support that might facilitate the peace process?

[Thatcher] Yes, the viewpoint I've taken is this: — obviously, if there are various states — and there are a number — who are in considerable economic difficulty and who need financial help, that help is of itself valuable. It is not a substitute for a political peace process. It never has been, and it's never been proposed in that way. It is that the two together [words indistinct]. Economic help is not a substitute for the peace process, it is a supplement to it.

[Unidentified correspondent] [words indistinct] That the PLO does have a role to play in the Middle East peace process, from what you've said about your view that it might be useful to have elections on the West Bank, but there is some question about who should be the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people. Is it now Britain's hope that a new form of Palestinian representation could be found to replace the PLO?

[Thatcher] As you know, I tried in any way I could to persuade the one branch of the PLO to give up or to persuade all of them, but to persuade the branch more likely to renounce terrorism and to accept 242 and Israel's right to exist as a condition for negotiations with her. You see, if they are prepared to do that and renounce terrorism, then it seemed to me that there was a new situation which, as I understood both from some Israeli politicians and from the United States, would make it possible to view the part of the PLO in a different light. Now, if we cannot do that, then we mustn't give up hope. We have to find other Palestinian representatives who truly represent the Palestinian people and we have to try to find that [words indistinct]. A number of ways have been proposed, but what we were suggesting was that some kind of election process for representation might be the way ahead, might be the way in which to see that those people had the support of the Palestinians behind them [words indistinct] have not got, obviously, the precise form and one didn't expect to, but it's something which must be pursued.

[Arthur Max, AP] Prime Minister, the Dutch foreign minister, in his capacity as chairman of the EEC, is holding talks with Yasir 'Arafat. Do you approve of those talks and, as chairman of the [words indistinct] with the PLO?

[Thatcher] It is not the first time that the chairman of the EEC has done this. It's not setting a new precedent at all. It is continuing what has happened and therefore it would have been a change to stop those talks. As far as we are concerned, officials do from time to time meet with officials of the PLO. That is not [words indistinct] a British Cabinet minister has not himself met Mr 'Arafat, as you know, and that will not change, unless the PLO renounces terrorism, accepts 242 and Israel's right to exist, and of course [words indistinct].

[REUTER correspondent] Are you taking any proposals or suggestions from Mr Peres to Mr Husayn on the one hand, and my other question is also, in a situation where King Husayn is saying that he cannot move without Palestinian representatives, where the Palestinians in the territories are saying the PLO is their representative and the PLO has not unilaterally renounced terror and 242 and Israel will not talk to them, who should take the first step?

[Thatcher] With regard to your first question, no, I'm not taking specific proposals but I never expected or intended to. I just hoped to profit and benefit from the wide-ranging talks which we've had here and I think that has happened. I don't think you can quite put your question — well, you can put your question any way — but you have deliberately hemmed yourself in in very, very narrow terms of reference, and I can only point out that had you been asking a simpler question about relations between Israel and Egypt say some 20 years ago, we should never have had the agreement which ultimately came about. So things do change [words indistinct] views in different times and on that basis you always try to find the way ahead, and it's really on that basis we shall continue to try to find a way ahead. I believe that one can be found.

[Refa'el Mann, *MA'ARIV* correspondent] First, did you discuss here the Syrian involvement in international terrorism, including the attempt on an El Al plane [words indistinct] you think about those talks and about how you see the Syrian involvement?

[Thatcher] No, I cannot. We have very strict rules in our country about what can be discussed when a trial is about to come up and therefore I cannot say anything more about that save to say that the three Syrian diplomats who were expelled because Syria would not waive diplomatic immunity, which was necessary if those people were to go and give evidence at the trial and be prepared to be subjected to cross-examination, they would not waive diplomatic immunity and therefore we expelled those three.

[Alan Ben-'Ami] Mrs Thatcher, you've referred, we've heard this morning and during your visit, to the Holocaust and to the Nazis. How do you feel about the charges that have been made against Dr Waldheim and Dr Waldheim's replies? Do you feel that he's clarified the situation or [words indistinct]?

[Thatcher] I am not prepared to comment on Mr Waldheim. Insofar as Britain is involved, I have answered in Parliament that we have no documents which contain anything other than things which are already public knowledge. I have been asked about two specific people and we are just searching our own records in the Ministry of Defense to see if there is any connection. That search will, of course, take some considerable time.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mrs Thatcher, the nature of your conversations regarding cooperation in fighting terrorism [words indistinct]?

[Thatcher] [Words indistinct] Something has to be done, rather behind the scenes, and is most effective when it is behind the scenes. You really cannot announce [words indistinct] precisely how you are tyring to counter them. To do so, of course, puts very considerable help into their hands and that is not part of my policy.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mrs Thatcher, in that case, could you possibly tell us whether discussions and fighting terrorism took up a substantial or any sifnificant amount of your time in your meetings with the prime minister?

[Thatcher] We know we both fight terrorism and we know we cooperate. That will continue.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mrs Thatcher, you've talked about seeking ways of finding Palestinian representation. I think anybody who has been following the Middle East for any period of time will realize that there is potentially a lot of controversy in what you are saying. The position of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians has, as you know, long been anchored in international life. I wonder, are you not concerned that if Britain is undertaking such a reassessment, seeking an alternative to the PLO to represent the Palestinians, whether you don't fear that Britain may not be opening itself up to a wave of terrorism, tags on it, throughout the Arab world? How concerned would you be about this?

[Thatcher] Well, I hope not; I am surprised you've raised it. After all, if you're to try to find a way through, you have constantly to make a reassessment. We did try to find a way through, as you know, just after I visited Jordan last year because we were concerned to find a solution to this problem. We did try to find a way through, and if you are saying that the threat of terrorism must in fact prevent you from taking any action or considering anything, I could not more heartily disagree with you and if we took that approach [words indistinct].

[Netherlands Press Association correspondent] My name is [name indistinct] of the Netherlands Press Association, Mrs Thatcher. Came it up in the talks with the prime minister and minister of defense about the arms deals from Britain to the Middle East [words indistinct] potential enemies of Israel.

[Thatcher] There is no change in our position on arms. We knew that in London and we know it here. There has been no change at all.

Thatcher Reception Remarks

TA270456 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 27 may 86

[Text] At a reception in Jerusalem last night, Prime Minister Thatcher expressed the conviction that all problems facing Israel can be solved.

[Begin Thatcher recording] In the last 2 days I have seen miracle after miracle in Israel. There are still problems to be solved and when I look at the problems which have been solved, when I look at the miracles which have occurred, then I think we have every reason on that basis to believe that the problems before us are soluble on a basis of security, freedom, and justice, and on a basis of the extraordinary talent and ability of this great people and, I hope, on your friendship with the United Kingdom and friendship, of course, always with the United States, our great ally.

One final word: I want to say thank you to Mr Peres for inviting me to Israel, and I want to say how much we in Great Britain admire everything that he has done, because he has seen problems and he has said however difficult they are, this time we're going to solve them. We congratulate you and the government on everything you have achieved in the economic sphere and we look forward to even greater achievements in the future. It has been a wonderful visit and a very great friendship, not only between two countries, but also between two prime ministers, has been renewed. [end recording]

At the reception, Prime Minister Peres also expressed satisfaction at the visit, calling it a great success.

[Begin Peres recording] I think we have had very constructive talks for the future. Israel would be bored to death if we would solve all of our problems, so we keep some of them for the future and nobody can accuse us of being but a very dramatic country and drama we shall continue to play. May I say that you did a great service to your people, to our people, to the relations between Great Britain and Israel, historically, at present, and for the future. May I thank you fullheartedly for your very successful and very moving visit to our country. [end recording]

Thatcher Meets Territories Leaders

TA270449 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher leaves Israel today, ending a 4-day tour here. Last night Mrs Thatcher met with Arab dignitaries from the administered territories. Jerry Cheslow report:

[Begin recording] [Cheslow] The eight Palestinian leaders submitted a petition to Mrs Thatcher calling on Britain to talk to the PLO. It was signed by seven of the eight: Hanna Sanyurah of East Jerusalem, Fayiz Abu Rahmah of Gaza, both named to the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to Middle East talks; deposed mayors Rashad al-Shawwah of Gaza and Mustafa al-Natshah of Hebron; Zuhayr al-Ris of Gaza and businessmen ('Isat al-Lul) and Bassam Kan'an of Nabulus. Only Mayor Ilyas Frayj of Bethlehem refused to sign. The petition called for Palestinian self-determination, a Palestinian state, and condemned U.S. bombing of Tripoli. Emerging from the meeting, Al-Natshah told reporters that Mrs Thatcher had not raised her proposal for the development of independent Palestinian leadership in the territories.

[Al-Natshah] She didn't speak about this, but we told her that there is [words indistinct] today or tomorrow. The people will elect the persons who are pro-PLO and there is no substitute leadership in the occupied territories than the PLO.

[Unidentified correspondent] Did she bring up any initiative? Did she speak about any British initiative?

[Al-Natshah] No, she didn't speak, but we urged her to understand our situation and to try to convince the U.S. Administration in moving the peace process forward.

[Cheslow] For the Palestinian leaders at the meeting, that meant an international conference with the PLO represented. The Arab leaders said that the PLO would be willing to accept UN resolution 242 if it included its version of self-determination. [end recording]

Prime Minister Thatcher believes that the best way for the peace process to move forward is for the Palestinians to choose a new leadership from among West Bank representatives. This is according to an official British source, who told a Voice of Israel reporter that this was the reason behind Mrs Thatcher's calls on Israeli leaders to allow new municipal elections in the territories. Our reporter says the British prime minister's actions apparently signal the demise of the PLO, at least for the time being, in the British policy on how the Palestinian issue can be resolved.

According to informed British sources, Prime Minister Thatcher believes the only way to break the deadlock in the peace process is for a moderate Palestinian leadership to emerge in the West Bank, which has become used to a dialogue with Israel.

Thatcher Disappointed in 'Arafat

TA270557 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 May 86 p 1

[Report by Asher Wallfish, Arye Rubinstein, and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said yesterday that the most immediate issue in the Middle East dispute was to find a Palestine Arab leadership which was not associated with terror. Meeting a small group of members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, all from the coalition, Thatcher said that King Husayn of Jordan had not "let up hope" of finding a solution to the Middle East dispute.

She said: "Britain knows the problem of terror directly. A way will have to be sought to combine peace with security. I never separate the two."

She continued: "Yasir 'Arafat dissappointed everyone when he could not deliver the goods."

Thatcher made it obvious that Britain would favour the holding of municipal elections on the West Bank, without saying this in so many words. Outside the committee room, after her meeting, she denied that she had suggested posting a United Nations official in the administered areas to promote amelioration of the quality of life for the Arab residents.

Meeting with her were committee chairman Abba Eban, Sara Doron and Eliyahu Ben-Elisar (Likud) and Mikha Harish (Alignment). Eban did not invite opposition members.

Thatcher Ends Visit

TA270922 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 May 86

[Excerpt] The prime minister, the vice prime minister, the Knesset speaker, ministers, and heads of communities in Israel were among those who bid farewell to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher a short while ago at the end of her visit to Israel. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that no speeches were delivered. The IDF orchestra played the Israeli and British anthems, and 19 salvos were fired in Thatcher's honor.

Cabinet Session Discusses 'Senior Official' Affair

TA251428 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] The prime minister announced that this morning the Cabinet discussed the affair of a senior official [not further clarified] and that the ministers established a common policy on dealing with this affair. The attorney general was about to demand that the police begin an investigation against this senior official but according to some reports he was compelled not to give the order to the police by pressure from senior ministers. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the Cabinet secretary stated that there is no connection between this affair and the question of whether or not the attorney general's powers should be changed. He noted that the Cabinet was not presented with any proposal to change these powers.

Possible Constitutional Crisis

TA260515 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 May 86 pp 1, 11

[Report by Benny Morris and Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpts] A constitutional crisis, with major political and security ramifications, broke out yesterday following the inner-cabinet's failure to suspend a senior official who is under investigation for serious crimes.

The inner cabinet felt that it was unable to challenge Attorney General Yitzhaq Zamir's decision to launch a police investigation against the senior officer. But Premier Peres stressed that the interests of state security should in this case prevail over legal considerations.

The sentiments of the cabinet members were immediately and publicly challenged by several other ministers and have caused deep concern within the legal community.

Cabinet secretary Yossi Beilin yesterday denied that the cabinet was pressuring Zamir to change his decision ordering a police investigation of the "senior official."

Beilin, in a briefing after the cabinet meeting, affirmed that the cabinet does not have the power or the right to affect a change in the decision of the attorney-general. Beilin said that the attorney-general is the final arbiter in whether or not to open legal proceedings or a police investigation against anyone.

The cabinet can, in theory, call on the attorney-general to change his opinion, Beilin said. But it did not do so yesterday.

Yesterday morning the inner cabinet discussed Zamir's decision to investigate the senior official and the problem of the official's status during the investigation. The 10 ministers decided to impose blanket secrecy on the subject.

Peres did not brief the full cabinet on what had happened.

In a statement following the cabinet meeting, the cabinet secretariat said: "The affair of the 'senior official' is not connected to the question of whether the attorney-general's powers should be changed. There is no such proposal before the cabinet."

Observers in Jerusalem doubted whether the government's decision to block all publication of details about the affair would be successful.

Newspaper reports yesterday said that the 'senior official' was involved in an important investigation by a commission of inquiry.

On the basis of this information Zamir decided to lodge a complaint with the police, ordering them to investigate the matter.

The debate within the top government echelons is expected to keep the political and legal worlds in this country in turmoil for the foreseeable future.

Peres's statement in the cabinet — apparently referring to the problem of the official's suspension — to the effect that security considerations in this case take priority over legal considerations has already been challenged by two veteran lawyers in the cabinet. Their protest is already being echoed at the parliamentary level and in the legal profession.

The fact that the roots of the affair are a matter of public record, and that the episoed leaves ample room for exploitation on political grounds — these mean that the facts will come to light sooner or later, with far more damage to the ministers involved and to public morale than would have been the case had Peres found the courage to make a clean breast of it all.

While Zamir has already announced his intention to resign, sources close to him suggest that he will not quit his post until the successor is appointed. The sources suggest that Zamir will not accelerate his departure because of his confrontation over the failure of the government to get the law against incitement to racism through the Knesset. (The latter affair saw Justice Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i chiding Zamir publicly after Zamir publicly expressed his regret at the non-passage of the legislation.)

Zamir reportedly does not intend to let Moda'i appoint an acting attorney-general, or assume any or all of the attorney-general's powers, it is understood. Zamir met several times with Peres yesterday and once with Moda'i, but Moda'i said later he did not discuss the senior official affair with Zamir. The local authorities' legal advisers association yesterday wrote Moda'i urging him to uphold Zamir's independence.

Peres Not To Brief Knesset Committee

TA261842 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] The prime minister has announced that he will not come to the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee to clarify the affair of the Shin Bet director and the attorney general's role in the affair. He has also announced that he will not allow Professor Zamir to disclose the details of the affair to the committee.

At the same time the prime minister announced that he will confer with four Alignment Knesset faction members to explain the matter to them before the debate on the no-confidence motions in the Knesset tomorrow. The motions have been submitted by the Tehiya and the Citizens' Rights Movement [CRM]. The CRM argues that the behavior of the prime minister and the Cabinet ministers in this affair have brought their commitment to the rule of law in Israel to an unprecedented low. The Tehiya is submitting its no-confidence motion on the basis of the attorney general's behavior in the affair.

Meanwhile Committee Chairman Eli Kulas conferred with the attorney general today. In the wake of the latter's remarks, Kulas said that he stands firmly by the attorney general in his attempt to uphold the rule of law. This is reported by our correspondent Shalom Oren.

Inner Cabinet Meets

TA261905 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] The dispute over the future of the Shin Bet director has not yet been settled. A senior source at the Prime Minister's Office told our political correspondent: As long as an investigation has not been opened there is no basis for suspending the director of the Shin Bet. Our correspondent points out that this statement implies that the moment an investigation is launched, the Shin Bet director may be suspended.

As for the dispute, our correspondent notes that the Cabinet is unanimous in its position that the final decision on the investigation of the Shin Bet director is up to the attorney general. However, there are differences in the Cabinet on the attorney general's demand to suspend the Shin Bet director. The Inner Cabinet ministers believe that his suspension will harm Israel's security. In contrast, various Cabinet ministers believe that the demand for his suspension is justified. About 30 minutes ago the prime minister summoned the members of the Inner Cabinet to his office. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports from the broadcasting van outside the Prime Minister's Office:

The item on the Inner Cabinet's agenda this evening is the future of the Shin Bet director's tenure, and ways to prevent harm to Israel's security from a possible police investigation and subsequent trial. As long as the investigation has not started, a senior source at the Prime Minister's Office told us this evening, there is no basis for suspending the Shin Bet director. Senior sources this evening confirmed that heavy pressure was exerted on the prime minister to fire the attorney general as early as last week, even before he filed a complaint with the police. The prime minister did not give in to this pressure despite the fact that he is very apprehensive that Israel's security might be harmed as a result of an unprecedented exposure of the Shin Bet.

The senior sources told us that the prime minister fully supports the Shin Bet director and that all the Inner Cabinet members comply with him. Harsh criticism of the attorney general was voiced today by Likud ministers, who demanded that every possible measure be taken to dismiss him from his job. Alignment ministers this evening say they fail to understand why Mr Peres has come out in defense of an affair that did not take place during his tenure. In their opinion, this is a disastrous mistake.

In any event, also on the agenda this evening is the possibility of establishing another commission of inquiry, with the approval of the attorney general, such as have been established in the past. Perhaps this commission will prevent any harm from coming to the Shin Bet and Israel's security.

Inner Cabinet Fears Security Damage

TA270509 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] Last night the Inner Cabinet continued discussing the affair of the Shin Bet head until midnight, and our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami has reported that all the participants in the meeting expressed the view that launching an investigation into the affair will cause security damage. For the time being, the Shin Bet head is continuing in office and senior sources have told our military correspondent that in their opinion the Shin Bet head can continue in his post

Soviet Message on Star Wars, No 'Warning'

TA250435 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] The Soviet Union has reportedly warned Israel that it is harming prospects for a Middle East settlement by joining in President Reagan's Star Wars plan. The warning came in a message to the Israeli Government delivered by the Finnish Foreign Ministry, according to the Soviet news agency TASS. Finland represents Soviet interests in Israel. TASS also said Israel was contributing to increasing tension in the world by joining Star Wars.

Israeli sources have confirmed that the government has received a written message from the Soviets on Israel's participation in Star Wars, but the sources stressed that there was no warning to Israel in the Soviet message.

Israel Rejects U.S. Request on Tabah Question

TA250426 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Israel has rejected a U.S. request to accept Egypt's formulation of the question to be presented to arbitrators on the Tabah issue. But, in a meeting with State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer, Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Peres and Foreign Minister Shamir, agreed to the presentation of a question that would represent the views of both Jerusalem and Cairo in the Tabah border dispute.

ALGERIA

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives for Visit 24 May

LD241217 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Algiers this morning. He was welcomed at the Houari Boumediene International Airport by Sadok Zoutin, member of the FLN Central Committee Permament Secretariat in charge of matters of solidarity and friendship with the peoples.

In a brief statement at the airport, 'Arafat pointed out that his visit falls within the framework of the regular consultations between the Algerian and Palestinian revolutions.

The visit comes in the aftermath of the PLO Central Council in Baghdad, which lauded the initiative of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid in offering to host a conference of all factions of the Palestine revolution, he added. The visit also comes in the aftermath of the tour 'Arafat has made to a number of African countries.

'Arafat added: We will use this opportunity to acquaint the Algerian officials about the results of the tour.

Received by Bendjedid

LD241739 Algiers APS in Arabic 1714 GMT 24 May 86

[Excerpt] Algiers, 24 May (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general secretary of the party, received today at the Presidency Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee who was accompanied by Abu al-'Iz, the organization's representative in Algeria.

'Arafat had stated, after his arrival in Algeria this morning at the VIP hall at the airport, that this visit falls within the framework of the regular consultations between the Algerian and the Palestinian revolutions, and comes after the meeting of the PLO Central Council in Baghdad.

Meets Palestinians, Departs

LD251617 Algiers APS in English 1539 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Tebessa, 25/05/86 (APS) — The PLO Executive Committee president, Yasir 'Arafat visited Saturday in Tebessa the barracks of (Ain Zerrouk) where he met the Palestinian combattants with whom he tackled several issues related to the Palestinian cause.

'Arafat left Tebessa in the afternoon for Tunis.

LIBYA

JANA Reports on Visit by Benin Foreign Minister

LD230845 Tripoli JANA in English 0710 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Tripoli, 23 May (JANA) — Frederic Assogba Affo, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the Republic of Benin, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Jallud Meets Benin, Sudanese Officials

LD242112 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud received today Brother Mahjub Muhammad 'Uthman, member of the Political Bureau of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party and personal envoy of the chairman of the Command Council [as heard]. Staff Major Jallud also received today Assogba Affo, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the People's Republic of Benin who is on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Further Reportage on Visit by Iran's Basij Commander

Umar Ishkal Receives Official

LD251401 Tehran IRNA in English 1349 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Tripoli, May 25, IRNA — Visiting head of Basij paramilitary volunteer force, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani, met and conferred with Secretary-General of Libya's General People's Committee Umar Ishkal here Sunday.

At the meeting the GPC secretary-general lauded the Islamic revolution of Iran describing it as one of the most important events in modern history.

He also praised the formation of the "20-million-army" of volunteers in Iran.

Rahmani heading a politico-military delegation arrived here last week for an official visit. On Saturday he visited an officer's college in Tripoli where he was awarded an official emblem.

On the Sunday meeting Rahmani condemned the U.S. April 15 air raid on Tripoli and Banghazi in which civilians were martyred or wounded. He said U.S. imperialism imposed a war on Iran by its Iraqi agent in a similar manner that it attacked Libya for its anti-imperialist policies. "Iran and Libya should resist the plots in order to strengthen hope for victory among Muslim and oppressed people in the region" Rahmani said.

Both Iran and Libya enjoy armies of volunteer forces. Iran's para-military volunteer troops have been playing a key role in the Iraqi-imposed war.

Rahmani expressed hope that common experiences in organizing popular volunteer forces in the two countries could step up their defensive power against arrogant conspiracies.

In conclusion he expressed thanks to Libya's leadership and Muslim people for their warm welcome.

Jallud Receives Official

LD260633 Tehran IRNA in English 0626 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Tripoli, May 26, IRNA — Member of the leadership council of the Libyan Revolution, Major Abd al-Salam Jallud, said here Sunday that the Islamic Revolution of Iran is a prelude to an extensive Islamic uprising in the region.

Major Jallud was speaking to the visiting Iranian head of the Basij unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani, who is currently here heading a delegation.

He stressed that imperialists and Zionists were warning one another that their failure to support and maintain the reactionary regimes of the region will result in creation of governments similar to those in Iran and Libya.

Therefore, Major Jallud said, imperialism has waged a full-scale aggression against the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

On oil price cuts, the Libyan official said that the plot was to prevent Iran and Libya from continuing their fight against imperialism and to drop their support for revolutionary movements.

Referring to the recent U.S. attack on Libya, Major Jallud said that the objective was to halt spread of the revolutionary movement in the region. But, he stressed, the result was a political, military and moral defeat for the U.S. On the recent Arab summit, Major Jallud said that Libya rejected the meeting since the theme of the conference was to force Libya to change its stance towards the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani said that U.S. threats against Libya and Iran proved opposition of imperialism with the stance of the two countries. The U.S. has realized that unity of Iran and Libya will mobilize the Muslim nations against U.S. imperialism, Rahmani said. Meanwhile, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani and his delegation visited various sections of an Air Force base here Sunday morning.

Official, Delegation Depart

LD261918 Tripoli JANA in English 1752 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Tripoli, Ramadan 18, May 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani, the commander of General Mobilisation Forces in the Islamic Republic of Iran and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this afternoon at the end of their visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani the commander of the General Mobilisation Forces in the Islamic Republic of Iran praised the armed people and the training of all society's sectors on the use of various kinds of weapons.

He said: "Traditional armies were founded by the tyrannical monarchs to preserve their thrones and keep the people away from training in the use of arms. He pointed out that these traditional rules were the reason behind the defeats and losses of Islam and Muslims. [no end quotation marks as received]

During the joint meeting between the Libyan Arab and Iranian delegations Rahmani confirmed that the revolution in Iran do [as received] not fear America's threats and that Iran will become their cemetary, as was the Libyan Arab land for American pilots during the failed U.S.-NATO aggression on the people of Great Jamahiriyah.

He said: "America will never be able to deter both the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and the Islamic Revolution in Iran from their revolutionary course and their support for the liberation movements".

He pointed out that what challenges America, and what America fears, is the establishment of the "armed people".

KUNA Says Jallud's USSR Visit To Include 'Arms Deal'

LD271006 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 May (KUNA) — Diplomatic sources in Moscow have told *AL-ITTIHAD*, published here today, that 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolutionary Council [as received] who arrived in Moscow yesterday evening leading a high level Libyan delegation including the Libyan defense minister [as received], will sign a big Soviet arms deal. Talks on the deal had been suspended since the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's last visit to Moscow. However, after the U.S. air piracy against Libyan towns Moscow agreed to sign the deal, which is considered to be one of the biggest Soviet military deals with an Arab country for a long time.

The sources, which also pointed out that the Syrian vice president 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was due to visit Moscow today, said that Jallud's visit to Moscow is in response to an urgent invitation from the Soviet Union, which will include talks with Khaddam on settling differences between Syria and the PLO and reconciliation between Syria, Libya and Iraq. The talks will also deal with the possibilities of an Israeli aggression with U.S. assistance on Syrian forces in Lebanon.

The Arab [as received] diplomatic sources said that the first round of talks will begin immediately after the arrival of 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The sources stressed that Khaddam and Jallud will hold intensive talks with the Soviet leadership on the tense situation in the Middle East and the Mediterranean basin and the escalating hostile campaign launched by the U.S. Administration against Syria and Libya, among other things. The Syrian and Libyan sides will also discuss the issue of promoting military and economic relations with the Soviet Union.

The sources stressed that the issue of the Iraq-Iran war will be given great attention in the Soviet-Libyan-Syrian talks, and the attempt to reconcile Iraq and these two Arab countries, which have for a long time stood beside Iran against Iraq, by committing themselves to total neutrality [sentence as received]. The Soviet side will also discuss the reasons for the failure to convene the Arab summit conference in Fes with the Libyan and Syrian sides.

An African diplomatic source stressed that Major Jallud will discuss in detail the issue of the air piracy against three African countries and its negative effects on Libya as well as the factors which may affect the convening of the non aligned countries' conference which is expected to be held in Harare.

Further on Jallud's USSR Visit

For reportage on the visit to Moscow by 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, Revolutionary Command Council member, including his talks with Nikolay Ryzhkov, CPSU Central Committee member and USSR Council of Ministers chairman, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 27 May Soviet Union *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Italy's Spadolini Cited on Lampedusa Island Station

LD240942 Tripoli JANA in English 0832 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Rome, Ramadan 16, May 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Giovanni Spadolini, Italy's defence minister and American intelligence agent confirmed that his government does not intend to terminate the agreement signed with the U.S. Administration with regards to the telecommunication station on the island of Lampedusa which was destroyed by Libyan forces.

"Spandolini" said that such a thing can be translated as Italy fears Al-Qadhdhafi.

It is known that the agreement will expire in 1987. This came in a statement he made to journalists in Brussels where he is representing his country in the NATO Defence Committee.

It is worth mentioning that Lampedusa Island has been witnessing for days angry demonstrations denouncing the American presence on the island. The island's mayor had thanked the leader, who warned the island's inhabitants on the danger the U.S. bases pose to Lamp-edusa Island. "Spandolini" said: "If Libya carries out any other visible military action as the one of Lampedusa, then that will be considered an assault on NATO and requires a response decided within the alliance."

JANA Political Editor Comments

LD250905 Tripoli JANA in English 0835 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Tripoli, Ramadan 17, May 25. JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Italian Defence Minister and CIA agent Spadolini said that if Libya carried out military action similar to that against the Island of Lampedusa that would be considered as an attack on NATO as a whole and would require a response decided within this alliance.

JANA editor for political affairs commented on the statement saying that the Libyan Arab forces struck at the American telecommunications base in Lampedusa Island because it represents the vital nerve which feeds the American fleet and its memory.

The editor for political affairs said that the Libyan Arab forces will strike at this base again if it continued to be used against Jamahiriyah.

The editor asserted NATO threats do not frighten us and will not deter us from destroying this base as long as it continues a NATO base which poses a threat to the security of Jamahiriyah.

The editor recalled the attack carried out by the Zionist jets on Palestinian headquarters in Tunis under the pretext that, as they claimed, that posed a threat to their security.

The political editor of JANA pointed out considering that the Island of Lampedusa being an Atlantic base and a centre of official terrorism which poses a threat to the security of Great Jamahiriyah, the Libyan Arab forces will not hesitate to strike at and destroy it if it continued to be used against Great Jamahiriyah.

U.S. 6th Fleet 'on Alert' for Thatcher's Israel Visit

LD241834 Tripoli JANA in English 1749 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] London, Ramadan 16, May 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — It was learnt that America pledged protection for child murderer Thatcher in her journey to occupied Palestine today.

Sources in London said that the American 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean was put on alert for this purpose and that jets will take off from the American aircraft carrier and will be in the air until child murderer Thatcher crosses the region in fear of any retaliatory action against her.

The sources said that Zionist military jets will take over this task at some stage in the Mediterranean.

The sources added that the security measures were drawn during Richard Murphy's visit to London two days ago.

However stringent security measures were imposed last night along the streets which the child murderer is expected to use to the airport. It is believed that the child murderer Thatcher will use military airports in leaving and returning to the country.

JANA Comments on Thatcher 'Crusade'

LD261723 Tripoli JANA in English 1622 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Tripoli, Ramadan 18, May 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Thatcher, P.M. of U.S. aircraft carrier, Britain, made her statement on arriving in occupied Palestine yesterday whereby she revealed the dimensions of the tenth crusade directed against the Arab nation as an entity, presence and culture.

Thatcher goes on to say that her visit to the Zionists in occupied Palestine comes within the framework of the policy of force mobilization, pointing out that she feels at home in Israel (sic.).

Speaking on Zionists living in her country, she says that she is proud of this Jewish colony for their matchless contribution in her country's national life, adding that the Jewish people has built a nation.

She has expressed her anxiety over the slowly manner of liquidating the Palestinian cause through the capitulatory negotiations, addressing the Zionists that she doesn't feel that this is their desire or that of the Arab moderate leaders (sic.) with whom she has over the last months conducted talks.

Commenting on the above statement JANA's Arab affairs editor says that from the statement of child killer, Thatcher's, the real dimensions of the tenth crusade campaign directed against the Arab nation and its existence have been disclosed.

He adds that what has been mentioned by her as regards her visit to mobilize the forces is a hard evidence that the Zionist train of death has started its tenth crusade onslaught on which 'we have warned against repeatedly, for it aims at liquidating the Arab nation and the Islamic world. [no end quotation marks as received]

He notes that Thatcher has revealed by her comments that she is a member of the international Zionist movement.

He asserts that her emphasis that she feels at home in Israel (sic.) has disclosed her excessive allegiance to the racist Zionist movement which has ruined the British people in the same way as it has formerly ruined the economies of various peoples of this planet, let alone it has made the Palestinian people homeless.

He continues that her lauding of the Zionist colony in her country comes to reiterate her subjugation and surrender to the Zionist lobby, which in coordination with Reagan, Zionist Mossad's rabid dog, makes every endeavour to fully wreck the Arab nation. He goes on to say that 'we have previouisly warned that the onslaught is not only against Libya but the Zionist death train propelled by U.S.-British energy will attack all'.

Commenting on Thatcher's statement that the Jewish people has built a nation, JANA's Arab affairs editor says that the playgirl aged Thatcher talks in the old colonial British logic which has degraded and oppressed peoples worldwide. He says, 'what is the meaning of the Jewish people has built a nation?'. Naturally, he adds, the imperialist logic has bypassed an obvious and plain truth, namely, the building of this nation has been achieved at the expense of another nation, i.e., the Arab nation and the Palestinian people which is still defying with force and courage all the attempts aiming at bringing it to kneel.

The Arab nation, he goes on to say, cannot at any time be changed into an indolent and insignificant nation. History will write that this Arab people in any part of its fatherland has baptized with blood all of its lands inch by inch and has given the boot to the outsiders — the Americans, Zionists and Europeans.

He concludes by commenting on the emphasis laid down by child killer, Thatcher, on the desire of Arab leader to liquidate the Arab cause, saying that Arab leaders have been placed in the dock by her. They are asked today more than at any time before to break their silence and disclose the facts to the masses of the Arab nation. Otherwise, they will be accused of accepting what child killer Thatcher has said as to their actual complicity in liquidating the Arab cause and putting an end to the Arab nation as an entity, presence and civilization.

SUDAN

Al-Mahdi on Ties With Ethiopia, Garang as 'Outlaw'

JN231040 Khartoum SUNA in English 1028 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Khartoum, May 23, (SUNA) — The National Defence Council, presided by Premier and Defence Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, discussed here Thursday the security situation all over the country, the Sudanese-Ethiopian relations and the preparation steps made for the expected meetings in the upcoming period between Sudan and Ethiopia. The constitutional conference will convene as previously scheduled with the participation of absence of John Garang, Sudanese People's Liberation Movement's leader, Al-Mahdi stressed adding that Garang should either resort to dialogue or he will be regarded as an outlaw.

Al-Mahdi, further, hailed the role played by the Sudanese military forces in preserving the unity and dignity of the country affirming the government's seriousness over the country's security by rebuilding the military forces morally as well as materially.

London Paper Comments Further

PM231521 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 May 86 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi: A Last Chance for Garang to Negotiate or Be Considered an Outlaw"]

[Text] Khartoum, *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* Bureau — Sudanese Prime Minister and Defense Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has warned [SPLM leader] Colonel John Garang that he has a chance to negotiate or be considered an outlaw. During a meeting with the Central Military Region command in Khartoum yesterday Al-Mahdi said: If anyone rejects this he will be considered an outlaw. He pointed out that the constitutional conference will be held on schedule regardless of whether or not Garang attends, because it has really become evident that he cannot move except within the limits allowed by Ethiopia. He added that the political moves made by the national grouping toward Garang and his movement were unsatisfactory and that he must be regarded as someone who has taken up arms against the democratic regime.

Referring to Presidential Decree No 1 on the partition of the southern provinces, he said that on the basis of the transitional constitution the South is still considered as one province. He added that the partition was a mistake committed by former

President Numayri, who decided autocratically that it was up to the southerners to partition the South.

Al-Mahdi pointed out that political changes had taken place when the politicians of the South were brought together and asked to determine its future, but they failed to agree on this matter. He added that they are requested to seek a peaceful solution because it is unjustifiable to bear arms against a government elected by the people.

He emphasized that the government is serious about settling the issue of security in all parts of Sudan and that this is only possible by developing efficient, well armed, and fully disciplined armed forces to defend Sudanese decisions. As a political leadership, he said, we are committed to eliminating all the negative aspects which afflicted the armed forces under the defunct regime. All effective means of boosting our army's capabilities should be used to enable it to play its part.

He also spoke about the national character of the armed forces and touched on ways of implementing the Islamic Shari'ah and non-Muslim rights.

Meanwhile, Al-Mahdi met the day before yesterday with the members of the Political Bureau of the Anya Nya II Movement. The movement's official spokesman told the press that the meeting dealt with the principle of peaceful dialogue to solve Sudan's problems, especially in the South, because dialogue is the peaceful option for overcoming the current phase. He added that the delegation raised with the prime minister the principle of open cooperation in connection with the proposed constitutional conference.

In another development, a responsible source in the Sudanese Armed Forces has stated that 423 members of the SPLM, which Garang heads, have joined friendly Anya Nya II Movement forces in the Miyom area of Al-Wahdah Directorate in the Upper Nile Province with all their arms and have been accorded a warm welcome in rejection of mutiny and in support of peace and justice.

Official Says SPLM 'Does Not Recognize Government'

JN261131 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Khartoum, 26 May (SUNA) — The Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] has announced its abidance by the Koka Dam decisions as the only way to achieve peace. The SPLM called on the government to prepare the atmosphere for a constitutional conference. This came during a telephone call *AL-SAHAFAH* held with the SPLM office in Addis Ababa.

Answering a question by the newspaper, Major Deng Alor stressed that the SPLM does not recognize the present government.

He said it is a government of the Al-Mahdi and Al-Mirghani familes although it emerged through democratic elections. Maj Alor said that the elections are considered a (?family affair) and that no change took place in the country because it is still governed by the emergency law.

Alor added that although the SPLM does not recognize the government, the government should work to prepare the atmosphere for holding the constitutional conference to solve the country's problems and to achieve real peace, not the false peace which the government is trying to impose by force.

Alor said: I affirm our commitment to the Koka Dam decisions. He added that the followup committee in charge of coordination between the SPLM and the National Alliance will meet on 21 June.

Alor denied that the SPLM has escalated military operations in the south. He said: If we were doing this we would move toward Waw, Malakal, and Juba, but we abide by the Koka Dam decisions. He explained that the government postponed the meeting in Addis Ababa. He said this postponement made us set 21 June as the new date for the meeting.

Southern Party Condemns SPLM 'Terrorism'

JN241645 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Khartoum, May 24 (SUNA) — A southern Sudanese party has condemned the terrorism activities led by Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement [SPLM].

The Peoples Progressive Party [P.P.P) in a press statement issued here today condemned the assassination of innocents by SPLM.

The party urged the rebels to end the fighting and bloodshed in the south and to commit themselves to dialogue.

The govern-ment, the chairmans of the P.P.P said, ought to accelerate the convening of the constitutional conference which will discuss the southern Sudan question.

Armed Forces Reported in Control of Upper Nile

JN241652 Khartoum SUNA in English 1635 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Khartoum, May 24 (SUNA) — The Sudanese Armed Forces has completely controlled the security situation in the Upper Nile, Brigadier John Kong announced.

The Upper Nile military governor who conferred here today with Supreme Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani said the Armed Forces had brought all the area under its full control with the assistance of the Anya Nya 2 friendly troops.

Kong conveyed to Al-Mirghani the support of the Upper Nile citizens to the convening of the constitutional conference.

SPLA Member to Garang on Downed Helicopter

EA221923 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 May 86

[Excerpts] Lieutenant Colonel Willian Nyuan Bany, member of SPLA High Command and chief of staff of SPLA forces, has congratulated the SPLM/SPLA leader, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, for the movement's recent achievements in lakes operational zone.

The SPLA chief of staff remarked that the shooting down of the helicopter marks the beginning of SPLA's military contacts with the new regime. Despite our profound desire for peace, successive Khartoum regimes have tended to misinterpret this position for weakness on our side and, therefore, such incidents help to underscore our determination to confront any military challenges, the chief of staff said. He however, noted that the movement's readiness to enter into meaningful dialogue with a view to solving Sudan's problems peacefully remains undiminished, despite Khartoum's determination to escalate the war. If peace cannot be achieved, Lt Col Nyuan concluded, then regimes in Khartoum would just have to come and go as was the case with Numayri's and Siwar al-Dhahab's.

SPLA Guarantees Relief Workers Safety if Rules Obeyed

EA232026 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 May 86

[Commentary entitled: "Khartoum's View of the Situation in War Zone One — Fact or Fiction?"]

[Excerpts] Slightly before midday on 18 May 1986 SPLA forces of Zalan brought down a government military helicopter that had entered Lakes Province airspace in defiance of restrictions imposed by the SPLA on flights inside lakes ever since the SPLA brought the area under its control early this year. The aircraft crew and passengers all perished in the disaster. It also stands to reason that the helicopter must have been laden with essential supplies for the besieged government troops at Rumbek.

Relief officials and other innocent third parties who wish to fly into Rumbek, Lakes provincial headquarters, have by necessity to comply with the movement's established procedures if they are not to risk their lives recklessly. Therefore, the death of the bishop and the relief worker who boarded a military aircraft in disregard of the consequences, regrettable as it is, does not in any way pin the blame on the SPLA. It is the very government now shedding crocodile tears for them that has soiled its hands with their blood.

The movement's deep concern for human lives hardly needs emphasizing. It has repeatedly, and on many occasions, issued warnings to civilians, both Sudanese nationals and foreign workers, to stay clear of areas in which fighting rages between the SPLA and government forces.

Sudanese citizens in War Zone One have been told that it would be advisable for them to evacuate the town since this would soon be engulfed by the war. Skirmishes within built-up areas normally result in heavy casualties, not only between the factions exchanging gunfire but among the civilian population as well.

On the other hand, foreign workers who appear to be particularly vulnerable, perhaps due to their mobility which is dictated by the nature of their work, have been made to understand that should they choose to remain in war-torn areas, they would be doing so entirely at their own risk.

However, it is to be noted that a relief worker who has no record of collaboration with the Khartoum authorities or its army can confidently count on being promptly released once apprehended by the SPLA in any zone of operations. Despite the growing intensity in the war which has brought untold misery to our people in its wake, the Khartoum government, acting without conscience, persists in its frantic and pernicious propaganda campaign aimed at misleading the public into the false impression that the security situation in War Zone One is satisfactory. Frequent claims over Radio Juba to the effect that the government in Equatoria is in firm control of the security situation in the whole of the administrative area is just a case in point. Far from the rosy picture Khartoum and Juba are painting about the security situation in the south, the public should have no illusion at all that the true picture is very grim indeed. Almost all the important land and river routes in addition to the airpsace are controlled by the SPLA.

Of course, it is understandable that the government can neither render a true account of the progress of the war, neither does it dare to admit that sizeable chunks of territory in War Zone One have virtually slipped from its grasp to the SPLA. If it did that, it would be unwittingly leaving its own credibility as a government open to question. The suicidal attempt to fly in the commissioner of Lakes Province on that ill-fated helicopter flight was probably prompted by no reason other than the overwhelming desire by Khartoum to induce both domestic and world public opinion into believing that Rumbek had been recaptured and that Khartoum administration was about to be reestablished. If the unfortunate commissioner had succeeded in setting foot again in Rumbek, it would have been difficult to contest what Khartoum would certainly have claimed to be the glorious reassertion of its authority over Lakes.

With regard to any planned relief operations to the south, it would be hard to imagine how the SPLA could guarantee the safety of relief personnel who may use government army transport facilities. Given the prolonged siege under which SPLA has placed government army garrisons in War Zone One, it would only be normal to expect military aircraft, which even in normal circumstances are perfectly legitimate targets, to be engaged in delivering vital supplies to the garrisons. Consequently, the frustration of such missions by the SPLA becomes imperative even if relief personnel or other nonmilitary personnel happen to be on board an aircraft actually carrying, or suspected to be carrying, supplies to government soldiers in the south.

The bitter struggle in which the SPLM/SPLA is locked with the Khartoum minority system is one that will eventually determine the very destiny of Sudan's millions. Hence, the movement regards the success of its war strategy as a matter of such paramount importance that it can have no qualms about a few civilian lives being sacrificed if that would in the end spell victory for the country's broad oppressed masses.

As lo[illegible] whose [illegible] may [illegible] to operate in SPLA-controlled areas, subject to the movement's directives on the conduct of relief operations there, there can be no threat to their lives. The SPLM/SPLA has both the obligation and the capability to guarantee absolutely the safety and welfare of members belonging to any relief organization that may decide to work hand-in-hand with the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association to make available relief assistance to the population in needy areas under SPLA control.

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TUNISIA

France's Prime Minister Chirac Arrives for Visit

Welcomed at Airport by Bourguiba

LD241332 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac arrived this morning in Tunisia on a friendly working visit. He was welcomed at the VIP lounge at Tunis-Carthage International Airport by President Habib Bourguiba who was anxious to go in person to meet with Tunisia's important guest and to express on this occasion his respect and admiration for France and its President Francois Mitterrand, and for Prime Minister Chirac for their solidarity with Tunisia.

For his part, the French prime minister expressed his deep appreciation at this presidential gesture, which he said encompasses not only himself but also France and the French people.

The plane carrying Jacques Chirac landed at the airport at 1100 today. He was welcomed at the steps of the plane by Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali who greeted and warmly welcomed him, and also by Slaheddine Baly, Minister of National Defense; Hedi Mabrouk, Tunisian Ambassador to Paris; Moncef Ben Mahmoud, chief of Protocol, and also by Senial, the French charge d'affaires in Tunisia.

Having received a bouquet, Jacques Chirac and Mohamed Mzali saluted the flag while the national anthems were played. Then they inspected a unit of the Armed Forces. After that Jacques Chirac greeted his welcomers, Mahmoud Mesaadi, speaker of the Parliament, members of the government and Political Bureau and a number of French Embassy staff in Tunisia.

Received, Awarded by Bourguiba

LD241720 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 may 86

[Excerpts] Before noon today at the White Hall in the Presidential Palace in Carthage, President Habib Bourguiba received Jacques Chirac [words indistinct]. When shaking hands with the president, the French (?side) expressed high appreciation of the special friendly gesture shown by President Habib Bourguiba towards France by receiving him at the airport. In his turn, the president stressed that by this initiative he wanted to express his appreciation of France and Jacques Chirac [words indistinct].

The president awarded Jacques [illegible] Independence Medal, and presen[illegible] presents.

After that, the president had talks with Jacques Chirac. The talks were attended by Mohamed Mzali; Mansur Skhiri, the minister attached to the president, minister of civil s[illegible] tive reform; Beji Caid Essebsi, the minister of fo[illegible] Hedi Mabrouk, [words indistinct] and th[illegible] egation accompanying Jacques Chirac.

Working Session Held With Mzali

LD241724 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Mohmed Mzali, the prime minister an[illegible] ench counterpart, Jacques Chirac, at the presidential palace in Carthage this afternoon presided over a working session which was attended by Mansur Skhiri, the minister attached to the president and minister of civil service and administrative reform; Beji Caid Es-sebsi, the minister of foreign affairs; Rachid Sfar, the minister of national economy; Hedi Mabrouk, the Tunisian ambassador to Paris; and Mahmoud [name indistinct] [illegible] attached to the president.

From the French side, the session was attended by [illegible] of the delegation accompanying Jacques [illegible] indistinct] official attached to the French [illegible]

Issues Press Statement

LD241825 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 May 86

[Excerpts] On his arrival in Tunis, Jacques [illegible] gave a statement to the press in the VIP hall of Tunis-C[illegible] national Airport, in which he expressed his high [illegible] being received by President Habib Bourguiba. [illegible] that was an exceptional gesture, which France and [illegible] gesture of friendship and confidence in France [illegible] convey to President Habib Bourguiba, through [illegible] media, the most sincere and noble wishes and gratitude.

In reply to a question about whether this [illegible] will contribute to the consolidation of French-Tunisian relations, especially in the light of Jacques Chirac's statements [illegible] after his recent meeting in Paris with Mr Mohamed Mzali [illegible] that Tunisia and France are sister countries, the French prime minister pointed out that there is nothing new in saying that relations between Tunisia and France are fraternal relations. He pointed out [illegible] only a confirmation of a historic reality which has never changed [words indistinct], and it is a reality which he personally feels.

Jacques Chirac recalled what he stated yesterday in Paris [illegible] reply to a question from the press, that the existing ties between Tunisia and France are extremely good ties and very [illegible] al ties, and that France will stand by Tunisia under any circumstances if Tunisia needs that. He pointed out that he is confident [illegible] the reverse is true. The French prime minister continued [illegible] that there is no change, as this is the firm policy of France and we are committed to it.

[Words indistinct] if Tunisia was exposed to an aggression, whatever its nature might be, and whatever its source might be, and asked for France's help, then this help would be granted immediately and without reservation. This is due to the nature of the strong relations between Tunisia and France. Then Chirac said, I am sure that the reverse is also true.

Jacques Chirac was asked whether France could help Tunisia in the difficult economic circumstances (?which it faces). He said that Tunisia [words indistinct].

In reply to a question about whether he has tangible economic proposals after the expansion of the EEC to include Spain and Portugal, Jacques Chirac pointed out that this expansion could harm the interests of other Mediterranean countries, especially Tunisia. However, France is committed to support the interests of these countries, these interests preceded the expansion of the EEC. Therefore, they should be respected. We will be firm in this matter, as we are now. Recently, I again had the chance to [passage indistinct].

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD241729 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 24 May 86

[Excerpts] Jacques Chirac, the French prime minister left Tunisia at 3:30 pm after a friendship and working visit during which he met President Habib Bourguiba and had talks with Mohamed Mzali, the prime minister.

Before boarding the aircraft, Jacques Chirac gave a statement at the VIP Hall of the Tunis-Carthage International Airport which included his impressions about his visit to Tunisia.

ETHIOPIA

Training for Fighters in Southern Africa Offered

EA242055 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, this morning received and held talks with the ambassadors and charges d'affaires of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Tanzania and representatives of the ANC and SWAPO at the National Palace on this week's raids by the racist white minority regime of South Africa on the Frontline States of Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe and on the attendant loss of life and property. On the occasion, the comrade secretary general said that what happened this week angered Revolutionary Ethiopia. He informed them that a statement was issued strongly condemning the action and renewing Ethiopia's solidarity with the countries under attack. According to a report we received from the Foreign Ministry, in his extensive discussion with the envoys of the Frontline States and the representatives of the ANC and SWAPO based in Addis Ababa, the comrade secretary general said the apartheid policy of the racist regime, whose downfall is historically imminent, constitutes in nature and content a barbarous crime against humanity. It was not limited to the national boundaries of South Africa and Namibia, but, using its strong army, it has been crossing borders and violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Frontline States and other neighboring countries. He said that in spite of the fact that the Pretoria regime, with the diplomatic, political, economic, and strategic support of imperialist countries, is daily shedding the blood of Africans endeavoring to achieve their freedom and human rights by peaceful means, their struggle is spreading widely, while international peace-loving forces standing for freedom, justice, and democracy are determined to eliminate apartheid.

The comrade secretary general observed that even though these timely tendencies clearly indicate the imminent historical downfall of apartheid, the task of bringing about the victory of the struggle of the oppressed peoples of South Africa and Namibia must engage the immediate attention and action of the international community. The comrade secretary general said that unless some western countries keep their promise to the UN of eliminating apartheid with political goodwill and out of concern for humanity and unless some of the permanent members of the Security Council cease using their power of veto in a negative manner and instead cooperate to impose economic sanctions and an arms embargo on and completely suspend their relations and cooperation with the racist regime and instead cooperate in taking action to force this inhuman racist regime to respect UN resolutions, it will be impossible to change the situation of our African brothers under the yoke of apartheid and suffering under the racist policy. He added that what is now necessary is to fulfill all that is needed to intensify the struggle and bring it to victory. The comrade secretary general stressed that to change the situation in southern Africa which threatens world peace and the security of freedom and human rights of the oppressed peoples of Namibia and southern Africa, the international community must accept that the armed struggle is decisive and extend it tangible support.

In conclusion, the comrade secretary general said it is the special concern of the people, party, and government of Ethiopia, which has been the symbol of freedom for years and which today stands firmly for popular national, social, and economic independence, to strengthen solidarity with the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa and to give unreserved support within its means to help the struggle achieve victory. The comrade secretary general officially disclosed to the representatives of the Frontline States, the ANC, and the SWAPO present at the National Palace that revolutionary Ethiopia has decided to train and arm 10,000 combatants from South Africa and Namibia in accordance with its determination to contribute toward the complete elimination of colonialism and apartheid in the African Continent. The comrade secretary general disclosed that messages have been sent to leaders of the liberation fronts, Comrades Oliver Tambo and Sam Nujoma informing them of the decision and expressed his confidence that this pledge made by Ethiopia and respective actions will change the dangerous situation in South Africa and make an important contribution toward bringing about the victory of the struggling people.

Mengistu Receives Message from Kenyan President

EA222315 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, received a message from Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi today. Dr Robert Ouko, Kenya's minister of economic planning and development, handed the message to our comrade revolutionary leader this afternoon at a ceremony held at the special office at the WPE Central Committee of the comrade secretary general. The meeting was attended by the member of the WPE Central Committee and foreign minister [as heard], and by S.K. Nganatha, Kenyan Ambassador to revolutionary Ethiopia.

Eritrean Rebels Claim Military Success 21 May

EA242044 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 24 May 86

[Summary] On 21 May EPLF forces attacked an enemy post in (Dekishahai), Anseba, killing and wounding 20 soldiers and capturing 9 soldiers and 15 Kalashnikovs. The EPLF forces, which attacked (Dekishehai) at 2240, controlled the post until 0300 and then returned safely to base.

ANC Commentary Criticizes Botha Speech

EA231317 Addis Ababa Radio Freedom in English to South Africa 1930 GMT 22 May 86

[Unattributed commentary: "The Racists Are Beating Drums of War"]

[Text] Compatriots: The speech by the fascist ring leader, Pieter Botha, to his coloured puppets in the so-called tricameral parliament while he was boasting about the act of aggression which [illegible] troops have carried out in Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia was indeed nothing more than just mere bravado of a desperate man who can clearly see the doom of his regime but refusing to accept reality. Out of all the hogwash Botha was saying (?he managed) to beat his breast, shouting himself hot that his regime has the will and might to crush the ANC, the vanguard movement of the oppressed people of South Africa for their liberation. Nothing much can be said of this and that they are mere empty words which even Botha himself hardly believes. He knows very well that his regime has failed completely to do exactly that.

This is what has occupied their minds and their military might for the past 25 years or so now, to try to crush the ANC by all means. To try to obliterate it not only from the soil of our country, not only from the minds and hearts of our people but even further afield to try to drive it out of the entire region and crush it wherever it might exist. They have failed to do that [word indistinct]. They have failed even to stop their own white supporters whom he was clearly trying to please from wanting to know more about the ANC, from even talking about it let alone beginning to regard the ANC as the alternative government of this country. They have failed to all that. Botha knows that this is the same old story that all his predecessors have been chanting. Verwoerd and Vorster before him all tried the same thing. In fact, they not only threatened or boasted that they can crush the ANC, they actually claimed they had already finished it. They have crushed it dead. When Verwoerd banned the ANC more than 25 years ago together with his Minister of Justice Vorster, they all did that with the false hope that they can crush the ANC.

Following the Rivonia arrest and subsequent life sentencing of our leaders, they were jubilant saying they have crushed the ANC. The same ANC that Botha today tells his puppets and supporters that he has the will and might to crush. Twenty-five years later, 25 years after they have made desperately [word indistinct] to crush everything that smacked of the ANC, more than 2 and a 1/2 decades after numerous arrests (?of our party), detention, death in detention, heinous and brutal massacres of our people, and the introduction of numerous vicious legislations aimed at suppressing anyone and anything that has to do with the ANC and the liberation struggle [words indistinct].

We wonder really whether all these vicious actions were not the employment of their much vaunted military and police might. They even went to the naked stage of invading neighboring independent states to massacre defenseless and unarmed refugees in Maseno, Mozambique; Maseru, Lesotho; Botswana, many times, and at all times coming back home to chant the same old tune that they have now destroyed the ANC. They have crushed its depots but after each moment, only to realize, that this ANC actually has many (?heads), it has many heads it is always able to rise again more stronger than before. Now at this time, when even their 26-year-old banning order on this movement no longer has any meaning in the hearts and minds of anyone in our country except [words indistinct] group, he still has the nerve to tell the world that he has the will and might to crush the ANC, the same ANC that his regime has failed to crush for more than 25 years. This really can be nothing more than just a growl of a cornered-beast in a hopeless and desperate situation.

Botha is clearly out of steam and he knows that himself. He can clearly see the overwhelming might of our struggle, championed by our vanguard movement the ANC, poised to crush him and his clique of fascists and all he can do now is to play brave, ranting and raving about his military might. There is nothing more that he can do now.

His military and police might has failed dismally to contain our mass struggle in the townships for the past 20 months or so while he deployed one heavily armed soldier every 10 meters in our townships last year, giving them orders to shoot to kill anything black that dares raise a finger. He thought that the military might will manage to crush our resiliance and subdue us to surrender. He thought that our resolve and determination to win our freedom will be deterred and we will be frightened to continue.

Instead (?I) saw more and more ANC flags being hoisted in every township, at every gathering, at every funeral of the victims of his military might. His puppets were attacked and driven out of the townships and the voice of our people demanding the unveiling of their movement, the ANC, and the release of their genuine leaders rose and is now reverberating not only in every township but even in the union buildings itself. It is now reverberating throughout the corridors of his triracial parliament. The ANC lives everywhere, even in his own hut. Botha himself has to battle desperately with the demand from all quarters that he goes to the table to surrender honorably to the ANC and avoid being crushed by the might of the same ANC.

Really, countrymen, Botha's shouts were meant merely to try to appease his equally desperate arch-fascist supporters who also see the near end of their criminal regime. His aggressive attacks against the three neighboring states and shouts that he will repeat such actions are merely to try to satisfy them with the hope of maintaining their support of this collapsing regime. It is true he can, and most probably will, still attack these neighboring countries. It is very easy indeed to send in planes to bomb refugee settlements and harass defenseless and [word indistinct] nationals of these countries, destroy, and damage their infrastructure. This act will not stop the struggle inside South Africa from continuing to intensify by each passing day. That should not by any means crush the ANC. Even if he would attack ANC offices wherever they are, and kill its leaders, that would not crush the ANC any bit either.

The ANC is not just Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Alfred Nzo, or any of our leaders. The ANC is the oppressed people of South Africa who are not very far away from Botha's doorsteps. He does not have to go hunting the ANC in Zambia, Botswana, or Zimbabwe. The ANC is right here in the townships and cities of our country. It is everywhere. No military might can ever crush it. Because it is the united people whom (?he attacks).

To attack the neighboring countries is just an attempt at internationalizing the conflict in our country. It is an expression of their frustration, building a massive stockpile of weapons against an imaginary enemy coming from outside the borders of our country only to realize that the enemies of apartheid, real enemies and real people who will destroy their monstrous regime are right here at (?home). (?Now they do not know what to do with all their weapons) of mass destruction they have wasted our country's wealth in building. The only way to use them is by provoking an escalated conflict with the neighboring states by claiming that they are striking at so-called ANC bases. This attempt too, countrymen, can never succeed to hold the inevitable demise of this barbaric and aggressive regime. For us, the fighting people of South Africa, Botha's desperate ranting should only serve to strengthen our resolve, our courage and determination to crush this regime once and for all and bring about lasting peace and stability in our country and the entire region. We can never be deterred by his empty shouts when the staccato of his soldiers' rifles and machine guns and the rattling of their [words indistinct] have failed to stop us from continuing to confront them. We have the will and the might to crush apartheid. Let us do it and do it now.

KENYA

Kenyan Minister Delivers Moi Message to Museveni

EA251447 Nairobi KNA in English 1417 GMT 25 May 86

[Excerpt] Entebbe 25, May — Ugandan leader Yoweri Museveni today received a special message from President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya. The message was delivered to President Museveni this afternoon at State House Entebbe by the minister for planning and national development, Dr Robert Ouko. The contents of the message was not disclosed.

SOMALIA

Barre Injured in Car Accident, Flown to Riyadh

EA240543 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0450 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] A spokesman for the Ministry of Information and National Guidance has said that the president of the SDR, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, and other leaders accompanying him were involved in a car accident about 13 km from Mogadishu on the Mogadishu-Afgoi road yesterday afternoon at 1730, during a downpour. The president was on his way back from a routine inspection tour of the lower Shabeelle region. The spokesman went on to say that the president and the other leaders accompanying him, including the mayor of Mogadishu, Challe Hasan Abshir Farah, were taken to Madina hospital and that their condition is satisfactory.

President Leaves Mogadishu

EA241419 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] In a bulletin, the medical committee supervising the health condition of President of the Republic Challe Mohamed Siad Barre describes his health condition as good. For further medical investigation the president has been advised to travel to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The aircraft carrying the president left Mogadishu airport at 1445.

Barre Arrives in Riyadh

LD250030 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2320 GMT 24 May 86

[Excerpt] Mecca, 24 May 86 (SPA) — As soon as His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz learned through a telephone call from Mogadishu about the road accident due to bad weather in which His Excellency President Mohamed Siad Barre of Somalia was involved yesterday, he issued his noble order to His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, to make available medical care of the highest standard in the Kingdom to His Excellency. Carrying out the noble instruction, one of the flying clinics of the Royal Air Force, equipped with the most modern medical equipment, left immediately with five of the most experienced specialists aboard to bring His Excellency to the Kingdom.

His Excellency the Somali President and his aides arrived at King Khalid International Airport at 2000 this evening. He was immediately taken to the military hospital in Riyadh for examination and treatment, surrounded by every means of medical care.

Three Die in Accident

HK250342 Hong Kong AFP in English 0332 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Riyadh, May 25 (AFP) — Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre was flown to a military hospital here Saturday after a car crash in Mogadishu, but Somali officials denied reports that he had been seriously injured. Informed hospital sources said earlier that the 65-year-old general, who has ruled his country for the past 17 years, was unable to speak as a result of the accident Friday and had had a series of X-rays since arriving at the hospital's emergency ward. The Somali officials said he was "much better" and that he had not been able to speak when he arrived at the hospital because he was "in shock." The president had spoken to doctors on the plane, they said. A Somali who answered the telephone in Gen Siad Barre's suite said he was in "excellent" health and had not needed surgery.

The Qatari News Agency, in a dispatch from Mogadishu, said three unidentified people were killed when the president's car crashed head-on into a bus during a rainstorm. The agency and diplomatic sources said the president himself was not seriously hurt. A team of Kenyan doctors was sent to Mogadishu late Friday in response to a Somali request after the accident, a Somali diplomatic source said in Nairobi. The mayor of Mogadishu, Hassan Abshir Farah, who was hurt in the crash 13 kms (eight miles) west of the capital on the way back from a visit to the lower Shabelle region, was also taken to the Saudi hospital.

Barre Condition 'Satisfactory'

EA251229 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] An official statement released last night by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia says the health condition of the president of the SDR is satisfactory and that he is in no danger whatsoever. The hospital to which Challe Siad was admitted was last night visited by the governor of Riyadh, Amir Salman, and other leaders of the Saudi Kingdom.

The SDR minister of information, Challe Mohamed Omar Jess, speaking on behalf of the SDR President, thanked the Saudi Arabian Government for its kind assistance with regard to the health of the SDR president. He described the Saudi action as indicative of the cordial relations between the two brotherly countries and the concern of the Saudi Government to strengthen cooperation between Arab countries and the Muslim world.

The report further adds that the mayor of Mogadishu, Challe Hasan Abshir Farah, who was among those injured in the accident, is also reported to be in a satisfactory health condition.

The SDR president, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, who arrived in Riyadh at 1930, was flown from Mogadishu in a special plane sent by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Barre's Condition Updated

EA261531 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 26 May 86

[Excerpts] A report received by Sonna today from Riyadh says that the condition of the SDR president Challe Muhammad Siad Barre, is very good, as already reported.

The report adds that the Mayor of Mogadishu, who is in the same hospital, is doing very well.

Craxi Volunteers Aid

EA241837 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Diplomatic sources have disclosed that the Somali President Siad Barre was injured in a car accident yesterday. According to the sources, it is believed that President Siad Barre has been taken to the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh, by plane for treatment. It was disclosed that President Barre was involved in the car accident while returning from a visit to a project near Mogadishu.

According to a report from Rome, President Barre was seriously injured in the accident and the Italian prime minister, Bettino Craxi, has expressed his country's readiness to provide the necessary medical assistance. The report says President Siad Barre was injured when his car collided with a truck.

Situation Reported 'Very Tense'

EA261808 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Reports reaching us from Mogadishu say many people were killed at the scene of the accident involving Siad Barre's car. Reports say that when Siad's car collided with the bus, his security officers, who are members of the Somali military police force, opened fire on the people inside the bus. Many people were killed and many others were injured. Those who survived were arrested.

Other reports say that the situation in Mogadishu is very tense and that extra troops have been moved into the city. Rumors are rife in the streets of Mogadishu as to who will succeed Siad Barre in the event of his death.

SNM Forces Mount Surprise Attacks on 15, 18 May

EA242116 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] The gallant fighters of the Somali National Movement, SNM, wing of the Somali opposition forces made a surprise attack on loyalist troops of dictator Siad Barre deployed in the (?Ged Balar) and (?Alah Ibaday) areas in the northwestern region, killing 10 and wounding many other soldiers. The SNM forces which attacked the dispirited soliders of the Mogadishu regime on 15 and 18 May 1986 suffered one martyr and two fighters wounded.

Worshipers Killed During Arrest of Imam

EA222308 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Reports from Mogadishu confirm that last Friday soldiers loyal to the fascist regime of dictator Siad Barre were ordered to arrest the imam of Sigaleh mosque in Hodan district, of Benadir Region [near Mogadishu]. During the soldiers' attempt to arrest the imam there was a confrontation between the general public and Siad's men. Several unarmed civilians were killed when the soldiers opened fire on worshippers. One soldier was also killed. Many residents of the area, including the imam of Sigaleh mosque, were arrested. They are now languishing in the torture chambers of dictator Siad Barre.

Other reports say that over the past few months the fascist regime of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre has carried out a campaign against religious leaders and religious students who take lessons inside the mosques. Several hundred have already been arrested.

Somali Rebel Leaders Discuss Further Cooperation

EA242104 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Officials of the two Somali opposition forces, the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, and the SNM led by their respective chairmen, Hasan 'Ali Mireh and Ahmad Muhammad Silanyo, held talks yesterday. The talks centered on strengthening and enhancing bilateral cooperation and relations as well as ways the two organizations could cooperate in areas of interest to the Somali people.

The two organizations agreed on October 1982 to unify their fighting forces and political and information organs as a prelude to complete unification, but this has not been achieved. The only area in which the two organizations have cooperated fully is the use of Radio Halgan, which is why the two leaders saw fit to hold yesterday's talks on ways and means of bringing the two opposition forces closer together.

DFSS Executive Committee Briefed on Joint Action

EA222314 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] A special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, wing of the Somali opposition forces opened at the front's headquarters this morning. During the meeting the members discussed the overall situation of the DFSS and the general activities of all the Somali opposition forces, as well as the latest political maneuvers in the Horn of Africa. The Executive Committee was briefed by the chairman of the DFSS, Dr Hasan Ali Mireh, who once again called on the members of the DFSS and the Somali opposition forces to increase their efforts to topple the dying regime of dictator General Siad Barre. While briefing the committee, Dr Hasan Ali Mireh mentioned the recent meetings between DFSS and SNM members, at which future joint military action against the Mogadishu regime was discussed and agreed upon.

Several People Reported Stricken With Cholera

EA222316 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan In Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Reports from Burao say that the killer disease, cholera, has hit several villages around the town. The reports have not given detailed information about the number of people suffering from disease, but it has been confirmed that several persons have contracted it. The reports also say that the confirmed cholera cases have been placed in quarantine. They are not receiving medicine and the basic food they need to fight the disease. The latest report from northern Somalia confirms that the killer disease has devastated the refugee camps in Tog Wajaale district [on the border with Ethiopia]

TANZANIA

Ugandan, Tanzanian Presidents Hold Talks

LD241452 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1000 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Dar es Salaam: Presidents Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania have just started talks at state house, Dar es Salaam. A state house spokesman said the talks would deal with bilateral issues. He did not elaborate. President Museveni arrived in Dar es Salaam this morning and is expected to return home after the talks. The Ugandan leader came to power in January of this year.

Ugandan-Tanzanian Talks End

EA251842 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 25 May 86

[Excerpts] President Yoweri Museveni has paid a 1-day visit to Dar es Salaam, where he held talks with President Ali Hassan Mwinyi on matters of mutual interest between their two countries. The Tanzanian news agency SHIHATA said President Yoweri Museveni, who arrived there yesterday morning, was received by his host President Mwinyi, the prime minister and vice president Mr Joseph Warioba, cabinet ministers and party and government leaders. Among the matters agreed upon was the reactivation of the joint permanent commission, which was set up by the two countries as early as 1983, but which has been dormant ever since. They appointed two joint chairmen of the commission, namely the minister of regional cooperation, Mr Ssebana Kizito, and the Tanzanian minister of state in the president's office, Ndugu Kighoma Malima. They charged them with the responsibility of ensuring that the activities specified in the commissions agreements are implemented as soon as possible. President Museveni paid tribute to the CCM [Chama Cha Mapinduzi, Tanzanian ruling party], government and people of Tanzania for their selfless contributions and assistance given to the people of Uganda, especially during the 1979 liberation war. The president assured his host that Uganda has certainly made a new beginning and that having restored security his government had embarked on a program of national reconciliation and economic recovery. The meeting was held in a cordial and brotherly atmosphere characteristic of the friendly relationship existing between the two countries.

Addressing a press conference at the end of the visit, President Museveni again refuted reports that there had been an insurrection of former soldiers of the ousted military junta of General Tito Okello in the northwest of Uganda. He said the reports might be indicative of the wish by some elements to attack Uganda, but he stressed that the NRA [National Resistance Army] would deal with the threat accordingly. He told the newsmen that the security situation in Uganda is excellent, adding that the country is now stable. He said the only problem is too many guns hidden in private houses, which the government plans to recover in the near future. He added that his resistance movement government is for the defense of the country's natural resources for the benefit of the people.

Health Officer Reports 16 Deaths From Cholera

AB241507 Paris AFP in English 1432 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Dar es Salaam, May 24 (AFP) — Sixteen people have died of cholera in the Tanzanian capital since the disease broke out in the city's Kigamboni Peninsula last February, chief health officer Edward Moshi said Saturday. Dr. Moshi said 277 cases of the disease had so far been reported in the city. He warned that dirty eating places, butcheries and bars would be closed to curb the spread of cholera. He said the cholera outbreak had been worsened by flooding in several parts of Dar es Salaam caused by prolonged heavy rains.

UGANDA

Ministry Spokesman Denies Fighting in Koboko

EA231259 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Defense has refuted a report which appeared in local and foreign media on Wednesday that there had been fighting in Koboko, Arua District. The spokesman warned newspapers which published such malicious propaganda to stop abusing the freedom of the press. Otherwise, he said, editors in chief will personally bear the consequences. He said that if they really doubt, journalists should go to Koboko and confirm for themselves rather than rely on rumors.

Report Termed 'Fabrication'

EA261753 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] A government spokesman has categorically denied a story which appeared in the ***WEEKEND DIGEST*** that there had been an attempted coup to overthrow the National Resistance Army Government. The paper said the alleged attempted coup involved prominent members of the Democratic Party, the archbishop of Kampala, Cardinal Nsubuga, and the governments of West Germany and Italy. But the spokesman said that there is no truth whatsoever in the story and it is a fabrication by people who are against the NRM [National Resistance Movement] administration. He told the people of Uganda not to take heed or to be unduly worried by the story. It is pure fabrication.

AFP Report

NC232008 Paris AFP in English 1923 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Kampala, May 23 (AFP) — Ugandan Defence Ministry officials Friday firmly denied press reports here that government troops had been involved in skirmishes with ex-soldiers in the country's northwestern West Nile Province. A statement from the ministry said there had been no fighting and that reports here earlier this week of skirmishes in the Koboko area were "malicious" and must stop. Editors-in-chief of any newspaper publishing such reports in future would bear the full consequence, the Defence Ministry statement warned. Reporters who doubted the truth of the ministry statement were free to visit the province to verify it for themselves, it said. The vernacular daily *TAIFA EMPYA* reported Wednesday that troops of the former Uganda National Army (FUNA) who served under deposed dictator Idi Amin had refused to surrender their weapons in West Nile, and that the new army of President Yoweri Museveni had begun disarming FUNA by force.

Museveni Examines Economic, Military Issues

EA241502 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 23 May 86

[Excerpt] The National Resistance Movement [NRM] has already worked out a realistic and decisive plan to tackle the retarded economy left behind by the past backward regimes. The plan, which will soon be announced, was disclosed by President Yoweri Museveni when he addressed residents of Entebbe at a victory celebration held at (Kakeka) grounds in Entebbe today.

The government, he said, will ensure that there is enough essential commodities in supply so as to reduce the temptation to charge higher prices. He told the gathering that the next stage will be to reduce the amount of Ugandan shillings in circulation by persuading those who have the money to invest in productive activities and earn good profits out of it.

The president said that the government will ensure that whatever is imported into the country is not smuggled out, adding that the country will not only depend on importation of such essential commodities but will also rehabilitate some of the factories for local production like soap, sugar, and salt.

Mr Museveni said that with the careful management of the NRM the government is now able to pay the debt services up to $2 million. He gave the example that when the NRM came to power, three of the Ugandan airlines planes, which were impounded in London for repair and services, were paid for and brought back into the country.

Talking about the general situation in Uganda, President Museveni observed that there is still some sectarianism during the elections of the village committees, which is being inspired by some old parties using the tactics of religion so as to divide the people. He said that the only way to judge a person is by his capability in implementation of national development and encouraged the people to stop working on tribal and religious lines.

The government, he declared, will not tolerate such cheap opportunists who play around with the national unity of the people, because unity is one of the resources of development. It is because of the unity within the NRM, he disclosed, that has led to victory over the past regimes of secterianism.

President Museveni regretted that although the country is now united under one flag and that security has improved, there are still some people in illegal possession of guns and are shooting at night in Kampala. He appealed to the remnants of the former army who have not yet surrendered their arms to do so immediately, like their colleagues who are now free and enjoying life with the rest of the countrymen. The president said that such people were only trying to demonstrate that Ugandans are difficult to manage. Yet this is not the case with the NRM.

Turning to the local papers, President Museveni disputed the allegation in one of the papers which reported that there was fighting in northern Uganda. He warned such papers to stop publishing false reports and he appealed to them to be responsible and to check their pulications, which damage the relationship of Uganda with other countries.

On the international issues, President Museveni urged the African countries to ensure that their national integrity is not violated.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Libya Warned About Results of More 'Incidents'

LD242255 Paris International Service in French 2030 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] The president of the Central African Republic was the guest of Radio France Internationale's [RFI] Third World Press Club today. Andre Kolingba recalled that his country had decided freely to welcome French military bases. For him, France is conducting a policy of peace in Chad. On the other hand, General Kolingba warned Libya, which he accused of having stirred up a recent attack near Bangui:

[Begin recording][Kolingba] I have not yet judged the time to be ripe to slam the door, to close the door to the Libyans here. So it is personal. I want to see how far they go (?to allow me) to close the Libyan Embassy completely.

[Unidentified correspondent] That is, you are playing a sort of step-by-step game with the Libyans?

[Kolingba] And the next stage will be the closing of the embassy here, purely and simply. They have been officially warned by my minister. [words indistinct] We have had enough. And we know that the bomb which went off on the road to the Bajgui M'poko Airport was the hand of Libya. (?I have the proof, at least). This is a reason of state. This time, we pass over it. The next incident of this kind and I close your embassy, purely and simply. And they know this. [passage indistinct][end recording]

Reason for French Presence

AB241401 Paris AFP in French 1320 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Paris, 24 May (AFP) — Central African Republic President General Andre Kolingba sees "the hand of Libya" in the bomb attempt on 1 April on Bangui Airport road and also in the scenes of unrest recently at the university. Within the framework of the Third World Press Club, broadcast today by RFI, President Kolingba issues a warning to Tripoli: "This time we are overlooking it," he stated, "but the next time an incident of this sort occurs I will simply close the Libyan Embassy in Bangui. The Libyans know it, they are warned."

The Libyan threat, according to General Kolingba, explains to a great extent the presence of the French Army in the Central African Republic. This presence, he stressed, is the result of a "sovereign decision" to assist France "which is not seeking to conquer any country but is seeking rather to bring peace to neighboring and fraternal Chad." Relations between Bangui and Paris are "excellent" and "enjoy fraternity and mutual trust," President Kolingba added, categorically denying that there is anti-French feeling among his country's population.

Confirming the upcoming formation of a new party and the organization of a constitutional referendum, General Kolingba said that the commission tasked with revising the constitution has until 30 June to draft it.

President Kolingba To Visit ROK 10-13 June

AB261249 Paris AFP in English 1238 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Bangui, May 26 (AFP) — General Andre Kolingba, president of the Central African Republic, will visit South Korea from June 10 to 13, an official communique said here Monday. It said he would have talks with his Korean counterpart Chon Tu-hwan on "advancing friendship and cooperation between the two countries."

CONGO

Finance Minister Presents Reduced State Budget

AB251531 Dakar PANA in French 0952 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Brazzaville, 25 May (ACI/PANA) — Itihi Ossetoumba-Lekoundzou, Congolese minister for finance and budget, announced yesterday in Brazzaville that the implementation of five road projects, some of them underway, could be postponed due to the economic crisis.

Presenting the reduced 1986 state budget to the deputies of the People's National Assembly, Mr Lekoundzou identified the roads as: Owando-makoua-Nouesso (northern part of the country), the Kouilou road bend, Brazzaville-Kindamba, and Bouansa-Moukou-Koulou (southern part of the country).

[Words indistinct] of the work on the Brazzaville-Kindamba, Djambala-Lekana and the Bouansa-Moukoukougou roads (southern Congo) will be completed. On the other hand, other projects such as the construction of the center for two high frequency shortwave transmitters, the rural radio project [le projet radio ambassades], Brazzaville sewage, and the continuation of the rehabilitation of the Congo-Ocean railroad as well as Congo's participation in the Algeria-Congo Forest Company will be stopped. Other projects, including a teaching hospital (general hospital) in Brazzaville, the Epena-Impfondo-Dongou road, and the national control center for Congo's oil palm plantations at Etoumbi-Lounda, could be revised.

This series of economic measures was dictated by the decline in income because of the international economic crisis and which, in June 1985, called for the implementation of a structural adjustment program for the period 1985-87. Nevertheless, Mr Lekoundzou added, the adjustment measures could continue till 1992 if the price of oil and the dollar rate, which have experienced numerous fluctuations, do not improve.

The minister concluded by inviting the Congolese parliamentarians to make a patriotic move in order to strengthen budgetary discipline at all levels and to help improve the returns of financial institutions.

GHANA

Riot Police Asked to Quell Chieftaincy Dispute

AB241832 Paris AFP in English 1821 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Accra, May 24 (AFP) — Hundreds of riot police have been sent to the central Ghanaian town of Brong Ahafo to put down unrest sparked by a dispute among traditional chiefs, a police spokesman said Saturday.

Six people were hospitalized with gunshot wounds Saturday after police fired into a crowd allegedly trying to free supporters of a disputed local chief who were detained earlier by police, hospital sources and reports from the town said.

The six were reportedly supporters of Nana Kwakye Ameya, a traditional chief who has been the target of allegations of improper conduct from the regional house of chiefs for the Brong Ahafo area. Several followers of the chief have been arrested and detained in the local capital, Sunyani, for disorderly conduct in connection with the chieftancy dispute. Police said the trouble began about two weeks ago and resulted in authorities slapping a dusk-to-dawn curfew on Sunyani and surrounding villages.

Group Leaves for OAU Defense Meeting in Zimbabwe

AB220846 Accra Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] A member of the PNDC, Alhaji Mahama Idrissu, has flown to Harare, Zimbabwe, at the head of a 6-man government delegation to attend the ninth conference of the OAU Defense Commission opening there next Tuesday. Alhaji Idrissu, who is the current chairman of the commission, told newsmen before the delegation left Accra last night that the 5-day conference would deliberate on the status and draft protocol establishing an African defense force and inter-African cooperation in defense matters. It would also discuss the OAU secretary general's report on a seminar on peace-keeping operations and meetings of experts in military training. According to the PNDC member, the situation in southern Africa, with particular reference to the destabilization of the Frontline States by racist South Africa, would be reviewed, as well as military assistance being given by the Reagan administration to the rebel UNITA movement in Angola.

At a meeting with African ambassadors in Accra last Monday, Alhaji Idrissu appealed to them to urge their governments to send high-powered delegations to the Harare conference.

Other members of the delegation are Colonel F Ayertey, director of the Armed Forces General Staff; Lieutenant Colonel K Boateng, director of the Ghana Armed Forces Peace-Keeping Operations; and Mr Hillary (Djinieh), of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The delegation will be joined by Ghana's ambassador to Ethiopia and the high commissioner to Zimbabwe.

LIBERIA

Doe Orders Striking Dockworkers Dismissed

AB262243 Monrovia Radio Elwa in English
2210 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] President Samuel Kanyon Doe has directed the management of the National Port Authority [NPA] to terminate the services of any employee who fails to report for work by tomorrow, Tuesday [27 May], and have him replaced without delay. An Executive Mansion press release issued today said in giving the directive, President Doe noted that in spite of government's appeal to the workers NPA to return to work and continue with their normal duties while government looks into their problems some employees are bent on creating confusion and trouble at the port. Dr Doe also noted that while the salaries of government employees were in arrears, employees of NPA were being paid regularly, adding, the issue then is not salaries but something else.

President Doe, however, guaranteed the public, and those wanting to transact business at the port, and those employees wishing to return to work of government's full protection.

Meanwhile, President Doe has assured the employees that as soon as the process of privatizing the NPA and other public corporations is completed their request for [word indistinct] will be considered.

Riot Police Dispatched

NC261935 Paris AFP in English 1928 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Monrovia, May 26 (AFP) — Liberian President Samuel Doe Monday ordered striking dockworkers at all the country's ports to be dismissed immediately if they failed to return to work Tuesday [27 May]. The workers have been striking since Friday to press demands for recognition of their union. Earlier Monday [26 May] authorities said troops and riot police had been dispatched to Monrovia's freeport, the country's largest, to prevent "violence" related to the strike.

Mr. Doe, in a statement released by his office, said the management of the National Port Authority (NPA) had been ordered to "terminate and replace without delay" any workers failing to report to work Tuesday. He said that despite requests that dockworkers return to their jobs pending a government study of their problems, "some employees are bent on creating confusion and trouble at the (Monrovia) port."

Mr. Doe said that while salaries for government employees were in arrears, NPA employees had received their pay regularly. "The issue then is not salaries, but something else," he said. He went on to pledge that once plans to privatize the NPA and other public corporations was completed, the dockworkers' request for unionization "will be considered."

Mr. Doe's threats came despite reported plans for a meeting Monday between the secretary-general of the dockers' union, Sunday Quellie, and Labour Minister John Mayson. Prior to the meeting Mr. Quellie said his workers had "no intention" of backing down on demands that NPA authorities recognize their "right of association."

In an unrelated development, Monrovia Magistrate Dunbar Innis Monday suspended for two days preliminary hearings into treason charges against 12 police officers accused of participating in a coup attempt against Mr. Doe last November. Mr. Innis suspended hearings after the prosecution failed to produce witnesses to testify for the state, but said the session would resume on Wednesday, when the prosecution will produce its witnesses. The 12 policemen were released earlier this month after a judge ruled they had been held without charges beyond the 48-hour limit set by the Liberian Constitution. They were immediately re-arrested and charged with treason.

NIGERIA

University Students Riot, Fatalities Reported

University Closed Down

AB231844 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Ahmadu Bello University [ABU], Zaria, has been closed indefinitely. The institution's senate took the decision at a meeting today. A statement by the registrar, Mallam Usman Abdulraheed, said the decision followed the apparent breakdown of law and order on the main campus as a result of violent demonstrations by the students. The students were given up to 4 o'clock this afternoon to vacate the campuses. The statement also noted that although other campuses of the university were peaceful, they were affected by the closure to avoid possible infiltration by militant students from the main campus.

4 Students Die in Unrest

AB232125 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 23 May 86

[Excerpt] Reports just reaching our newsroom say that four students of the ABU have been shot dead in an unrest in the main campus. A Radio Nigeria correspondent who was at the scene of the violent demonstration said 15 others are on danger list at the university teaching hospital as a result of injuries sustained during the disturbances. Some arrests were made. Meanwhile, the ABU branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities has expressed concern on the situation, and appeals to the federal government to investigate the killings. The university was closed indefinitely earlier today after a meeting of the institution's senate.

FMG Expresses Concern

AB260628 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 May 86

["Special Federal Military Government Announcement"]

[Text] The Federal Military Government [FMG] hereby expresses its concern over the violent clash which occurred at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria last Friday between students and law enforcement agents. The Federal Military Government wishes to express its sympathy with and condolence to the parents, friends and relatives of the students who lost their lives in the clash. Government is anguished by this tragedy. A meeting of Joint Chiefs of Staff will be held later today to deliberate on the matter. In the meantime, the Federal Military Government wishes to appeal to all concerned to stay calm and maintain the peace. Another statement will be issued later today at the end of the deliberations of the meeting of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Inquiry Panel Sworn In

AB261603 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] A commission of enquiry has been set up to look into the incident that led to the death of some students of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, last Friday. The 5-member panel is headed by Major General, retired, Emmanuel Abisoye. Other members are Mr Segun Okeowo, a former trade union leader; Mr Lasisi Osunde of the Nigerian Labor Congress; Alhaji Abubakar Mahmud; and Mrs. Rhoda Mohammed. The panel will investigate the immediate and remote causes of the violent clash, and determine the role played by various persons and groups in the crisis. It will also ascertain the loss of human lives, personal injuries, and damage to property.

Already, members of the commission have been sworn in by President Ibrahim Babangida. The president said at the swearing-in ceremony at Dodan Barracks today that he was confident that they were persons of integrity and character, who would be able to undertake a fair and unbiased assessment of the unfortunate incident. He charged the members to make suitable recommendations that would ensure that the nation would never again experience such an appalling disaster.

The chairman of the panel promised that members would live up to expectation. The panel has 3 days to submit its report.

Violence Followed Expulsion

AB241208 Paris AFP in English 1154 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Lagos, May 24 (AFP) — A student riot on a northern Nigeria campus left between three and 10 students dead on Friday, Nigerian newspapers said on Saturday. Official radio Nigeria put the toll at four dead. A report by the *PUNCH* newspaper's correspondent in the city of Zaria, where the riot broke out at Ahmadu Bello University, said 10 students had been killed by police. The paper gave no source for the report. Most papers reported four or five persons killed, some of them bystanders. *PUNCH* said 13 people had been hospitalized with serious injuries.

According to the newspapers, violence flared after the vice-chancellor of the university, one of the most radical institutions in the country, expelled a leader of the 10,000-member students' union and suspended another for their participation in a demonstration last week. The university said the two leaders had violated restrictions on male students entering female dormitories. All the university's campuses have been closed down.

Lagos Students, Police Clash

HK250232 Hong Kong AFP in English 0225 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Lagos, May 25 (AFP) — Riot police surrounded the university campus here Saturday [24 May] as students demonstrated after rioting at a northern university left at least four students dead.

Press reports said police had shot dead as many as 10 students in the rioting Friday at Ahmadu Bello University, one of the country's biggest and most radical, in the northern city of Zaria. The state radio said four had been killed.

After students barricaded entrances to the Lagos University campus in protest, police with automatic weapons, water cannon and armored vehicles surrounded the campus and traded rocks with students manning barricades of old tires and furniture.

One demonstrator was shot in the foot by a policeman and several students arrested. Police also threw rocks at two Western reporters watching the scene from a balcony and tried to arrest them. The police later withdrew to a point about one kilometer from the campus.

Press reports said the rioting at Ahmadu Bello was sparked by disciplinary measures against two leaders of the 10,000-strong student union. All the university's campuses have been closed following the disturbances.

Nigerians are also facing falling standards of living because of the drop in the price of oil — 97 percent of the country's foreign earnings. Nigeria's creditors have suspended virtually all new credit and say they will only resume after the national currency, the naira, is devalued.

But public opinion — particularly on the campuses — is so strongly against devaluation that many believe it would be political suicide to order one.

University of Lagos Calm

AB242155 Paris AFP in French 2053 GMT 24 May 86

[Excerpt] Calm returned on Saturday afternoon at the University of Lagos campus which antiriot police surrounded during the day, in the aftermath of a riot at the University of Zaria (north of the country) in which at least four people were killed.

Stones and other projectiles were thrown at the policemen by students of the University of Lagos who erected and set fire to barricades made of furniture and tires, the AFP correspondent reported. According to eyewitnesses, a policeman shot at a demonstrator and wounded him on his leg.

The police also threw stones at two Western journalists who were watching the riot from a balcony and tried to arrest them.

Late in the afternoon, the police withdrew to about 1 kilometer from the entrance of the campus which has reopened and where calm has returned.

Lagos Authorities Ask for Calm

AB262201 Lagos Domestic Service in English
2100 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] The authorities of the University of Lagos have asked the staff and students to remain calm and stay within the campus. They said it was the duty of all members of the university community not to take any actions which could aggravate tension and could endanger lives and property. The authorities added that with the cooperation of all parties concerned, an early return to normalcy will be guaranteed.

Benin Students Demonstrate

AB262138 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] From Benin comes a report that antiriot policemen are now guarding the (Ikawan) and (Ogunwo) campuses of the University of Benin. This followed a demonstration by students of the institution, in apparent sympathy with their colleagues of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Correspondent Yale Iyege has the rest of the story:

[Begin Iyege recording] During the demonstration, the angry students described as barbaric the alleged shooting and killing of some students of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, over the weekend by some armed policemen. The students were stupefied that such an incident could happen under a regime that was increasingly winning global, international (?support) because of its human rights stand. They called for a high-powered probe into the disturbances at the Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, in order to avoid further bloodshed and find (?lasting) solutions to student unrest [words indistinct].

(?The university students) called on their vice chancellor, Professor (Animo) Williams, to give what they called [words indistinct]. According to them, when this is done students shall then speak with one voice on prevailing national issues. [passage indistinct]

Meanwhile, all is relatively calm at the two campuses, and outsiders are barred from entry into the university until further notice. [end recording]

Demonstrations at Rivers State

AB262208 Lagos Domestic Service in English
2100 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] A report just reaching our newsroom says more than 1,000 students of Rivers State University of Science and Technology today staged a peaceful demonstration in sympathy with their colleagues of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Addressing the students at Government House in Port Harcourt, Governor

Fidelis Oyakhilome advised them to exercise restraint and await the decision of the panel set up by the Federal Government to probe the incident. He told the students that the federal and state governments were disturbed about the tragic episode.

Comments on ABU Clash

AB240926 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 May 86

[From the press review]

[Text] The *NEW NIGERIAN* expresses concern about yesterday's clash between the police and the students of ABU, Zaria. The paper blames the situation on the recent expulsion of two final year students by the university authorities. The *NEW NIGERIAN* appeals to all those concerned to resolve the issue amicably in the interest of peace.

Authorities Blamed for Riot

AB260716 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 May 86

[From the press review]

[Text] The *NIGERIAN CHRONICLE* writes on the recent crisis at ABU and says the incident shows that the nation's security agents are incapable of containing students' riots. The paper blames both the university authorities and the security agents for the manner in which they handled the situation. It feels that the killing of the students could have been averted if security agents had exercised restrained in the use of live ammunitions. The *CHRONICLE* argues that as long as there is incompetent management on the part of the university authorities and security agents, no matter the outcome of any inquiry into the ABU incident, it will happen again.

Governor Says Border With Chad Never Closed

AB251747 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Nigeria has never at any time closed her borders with the Republic of Chad. The governor of Borno State, Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Aduminu Aminu, stated this today while speaking to newsmen at Murtala Mohamed Airport, Ikeja. He said that the only gateway between Nigeria and Chad was Lake Chad which had never been closed, stressing that Nigeria shared no land border with that country. The governor remarked that the issue of border closure between the two nations did not therefore arise.

Government Urged To Mediate Community Dispute

AB251744 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] The Federal Government has been asked to step into the conflict between the Ennede and Egbede communities in Isoko local government area of Bendel State. A spokesman for the Ennede community, Chief Hamad Ederi, told newsmen in Lagos today that the situation now constituted a threat to life and property of the people. Chief Ederi alleged that Ennede village was invaded by Egbede last week, Monday, during which more than four people were killed and many others injured. Chief Ederi said appeals had been made to the police and the Bendel State government, but no solution had been found. He said the Federal Government should institute an investigation into the crisis to determine who supplied military hardware for [word indistinct]

The crisis is over the ownership of a fishing lake and some farmlands which the Ennede people said belonged to them.

SIERRA LEONE

Foreigners Expelled for Hoarding Gold, Diamonds

AB261819 Paris AFP in English 1743 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Freetown, May 26 (AFP) — Authorities in Sierra Leone Monday expelled 12 foreign gold and diamond traders for allegedly hoarding their goods to force up prices in the West African state, it was announced here. An official statement said the 12 were licensed gold and diamond traders from Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, the Gambia, Lebanon and Syria who had built up stocks of their commodities with the aim of "creating artificial scarcity for their own advantage."

The statement also announced that all dealers in gold and diamonds must begin reporting monthly to the president's office where "all records of their transactions and their receipt books will be inspected by the director of mines and the government gold and diamond valuer." Failure to comply with the order "will result in the automatic removal from the area and revocation of the dealer's license," it said.

Violence Causes Banning of Mines Minister

AB240914 Paris AFP in English 0807 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Freetown, May 24 (AFP) — Sierra Leone's ruling All People's Congress on Friday [23 May] banned Mines Minister Sanie Sesay from standing in next week's general election, after his supporters attacked and seriously injured his opponent and reportedly some 300 other people, including a white foreigner, at a campaign rally.

Mr Sesay's opponent in the Bombali East constituency is former High Commissioner (ambassador) to Britain Birch Conteh.

Earlier this week, two other candidates — Junior Trade Minister Ibrahim Sorie and former civil service chief Abdul Karim — were barred from the election for being, according to the ruling party, "largely responsible" for violence in the town of Kambia which left 150 people seriously injured.

ANGOLA

Defense Ministry Claims SADF Clashes With MPLA

MB270604 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0500 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] The SADF is reported to have been involved in a major military clash with MPLA forces inside Angolan territory. The Defense Ministry in Luanda says South African forces, using armored vehicles and heavy artillery, killed 53 Angolan troops and wounded 5 others in an attack in southern Angola last Thursday. It says the Angolan soldiers came under fire from Pretoria's troops while conducting a sweep against the rebel UNITA movement which Angola says is backed by South Africa.

In Pretoria, the SADF says there is nothing to add to the 22 May statement from South-West Africa Territory Force Chief Major General George Meiring. He said 56 enemy fighters, presumably meaning SWAPO, were killed in the followup operation, but Angola has rejected that the operation was against SWAPO claiming it was in support of UNITA. The reported attack came just 3 days after the SADF raided suspected ANC targets in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana.

LESOTHO

BBC Interviews Former President Jonathan

MB261833 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 26 May 86

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] For the first time since shortly after the coup that toppled him on 20 January, Lesotho's former prime minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, has broken his silence. After the military takeover, there was considerable speculation that Chief Jonathan, who had a history of bitter rows with South Africa, was ousted with the approval of the Pretoria government. Certainly Major General Lekhanya's regime has been careful not to upset Lesotho's powerful neighbor and is now cooperating over the supply of water from Highland Water Project. Well, in spite of Order No 4 that bans political activity and statements and in spite of being confined to his farm, Chief Jonathan has decided it is time to speak up. Julian Borja asked him how big South Africa's involvement now was in Lesotho.

[Begin recording] [Jonathan] Well, the extent of South Africa's military involvement in Lesotho is very great at the moment. They are in all over the country. At the moment, they have offered, I understand, to give military training to our boys. In fact, their policy is to have our military completely under their control like those of the bantustans.

[Borja] You mentioned Bantustans; can you see Lesotho with a greater South African political involvement and also a greater South African economic involvement with the development of this Highland Water Project? Can you see Lesotho turning into something which is very similar to a bantustan?

[Jonathan] Well, according to the way things are shaping up at the moment, I would not be wrong to say we are, in fact, a virtual bantustan at the moment, and I am glad in that you have raised the question of Highland Water Project in which they are very, very interested. This is one reason they wanted to get rid of me because my policy, which was accepted by the majority, not all the Basotho in Lesotho, was that this project should be a Lesotho project entirely.

[Borja] To recap, this is a project which involves the selling of water from Lesotho Highlands to South Africa combined with the hydropower component?

[Jonathan] Not a joint project. I refused them participation on this project but it is a diffferent matter as I understand at the moment. They now claim participation. So, they want to be on equal terms with the Government of Lesotho. This is very worrying because it is far from what the Basotho had expected of the project.

[Borja] So, you are saying that the South Africans engineered the coup partly in order that they would control fully this Highland Water Project?

[Jonathan] Quite correct.

[Borja] Do you think that is the primary reason for that?

[Jonathan] That was the primary reason they had decided to get rid of me and in fact I doubt very much if the World Bank and other financiers who had promised financial assistance will ever be interested in the project, that I doubt very much, because this was one of the conditions why they decided to assist us financially.

[Borja] You say they may pull out now?

[Jonathan] They might pull out.

[Borja] Now, in this new military government there, there seems to be various powers. There is a council of ministers, there is a military council, and then we have the king. Where in your opinion does real power lie?

[Jonathan] I think here maybe the king himself and the chairman of the military council are the ones qualified to answer this question. I really don't know, I am at a loss, I don't know where the real power lies.

[Borja] What do you think about the king's involvement in the whole business and the coup?

[Jonathan] This is I think a very, very dangerous political precedent, because we Basotho have always, even during the time of Moshoeshoe the Great, always regarded the monarchy as being high above politics. It has never happened; it is happening for the first time now in 1986. A dangerous political precedent.

[Borja] So you see the king as having an active role, as having dirtied his hands in...

[Jonathan, interrupting] Oh, yes, indeed. He has dirtied his hands, there is no doubt about it. Everybody is saying it in Lesotho. Even within the chieftainship institution itself some of the chiefs are very worried. [end recording]

MADAGASCAR

Defense Minister Reported Killed in DC-3 Crash

AB241859 Libreville Africa No.1 in French
1830 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Malagasy Defense Minister Vice Admiral Guy Sibon was killed today in a plane crash, the government has announced in a statement. In addition to the minister, 12 other persons were also killed in the accident of the DC-3 aircraft which crashed this morning not far from Antsirabe, 60 km south of the capital, in unclear circumstances.

Other Dead Named; Sport Aid Canceled

AB251202 Paris AFP in English 1152 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Antananarivo, May 25 (AFP) — Madagascar authorities have declared a national period of mourning following the air crash Saturday in which the defense minister, Rear-Admiral Guy Sibon, and at least 12 other people were killed.

Initial reports suggested that the plane had been carrying 13 passengers and three crew members at the time of the crash, but Madagascar television said the plane was carrying nine passengers plus the three-man crew.

In addition to Real-Admiral Sibon, the Navy plane was carrying two generals, five other senior officers — including the crew — four non-commissioned officers and a member of the ruling party politburo.

The television said the plane, a 1950's vintage DC-3, crashed into rugged mountains 120 kilometers (75 miles) south of Antananarivo on a flight from the capital to Antsirabe, 170 kilometers (105 miles) south of the capital.

Reliable sources said the death toll in the crash could ultimately be higher as a number of civilians may have boarded the plane at the last minute for the flight to Antsirabe, where Rear-Admiral Sibon was to have attended graduation ceremonies at the Malagasy Military Academy. The DC-3 can carry a total of about 20 passengers.

The government has given no explanation for the crash. Villagers living near the scene of the accident said they saw the plane plunge from the sky and heard a loud explosion.

The dead included General Hubert Andrianasolo, director of the State Oil Exploration Board (OMNIS), who was a close advisor to President Didier Ratstraka. Other victims included Gen Andrianasolo's wife, Oliva, who was vice-president of the Anatananarivo Province Executive Committee and a politburo member in the ruling AREMA party, Gen Jean-Jacques Rasolomalala, secretary-general of the Defense Ministry, Captain Augustin Ratsimbazafy, a presidential advisor, and Colonel Jocelyn Rabetrano.

The period of national mourning was set to last until funeral services can be held for the victims at an as-yet undetermined date. Because of the officer mourning, events planned to coincide Sunday with the international "Sport Aid" program to help famine victims in Africa have been canceled in the island state.

MOZAMBIQUE

President Machel Leaves for Visit to Japan

MB250729 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0700 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] President Samora Machel and his wife, Mrs Graca Machel, left Maputo this morning for Tokyo, where they will begin a working visit to Japan tomorrow. This visit is scheduled to end on Friday.

The presidential delegation includes Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano, Cooperation Minister Jacinto Veloso, Agriculture Minister Joao Ferreira, and other Mozambican Government officials.

During the visit President Samora Machel will be received by the Japanese emperor and will hold meetings with other Japanese senior officials. These meetings will center on issues of bilateral cooperation and other issues related to the current international political situation.

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha Appeals for 'Dignity' From Whites

MB231830 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1828 GMT
23 May 86

[Text] Kempton Park, May 23, SAPA — The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, today appealed to whites to practise leadership with dignity. He was receiving the Freedom of the City of Kempton Park and said that leadership without dignity and a sense of responsibility was self-delusion.

"And that is why each one of us, in whatever position we hold, must use our influence in order that the white man, who says he is the bearer of Christianity, that he believes in civilized norms, will practise his leadership in a manner which will allow others to look up to him. If we do not have the ability to do so, if we do not have that dignity, then we are lying to ourselves," Mr Botha said.

"It is bad enough that the black communities are eradicating each other as they are presently doing in our cities by uselessly and pointlessly taking each other's lives in spite of security measures. But it is even more objectionable when whites try to destroy each other," President Botha said.

U.S. Expulsion of Defense Attache Reported

MB240532 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] The United States has expelled the senior defense attache at the South African Embassy in Washington in protest against the South African Defense Force attacks on ANC targets in three neighboring countries. Announcing the expulsion order, the State Department said the Reagan administration trusted that this action would make it clear to the South African Government that the United States could not tolerate disregard of the sovereignty of South Africa's neighbors. The statement said that South Africa would not be allowed to send a replacement, and added that at the same time, the American defense attache in Pretoria had been recalled for consultations.

The statement identified the attache as Brigadier Alexander Potgieter and said he would have to leave the United States within 10 days. The recalled American official is Colonel Robert Hastie. The South African ambassador in Washington was summoned to the State Department yesterday afternoon to be informed of the expulsion.

Our representative in Washington reports that the rest of the South African military mission in the United States is not affected by the step and that it does not mean that mutual military representation has been suspended. Brig Potgieter's term of office would have expired within 2 months.

Shultz, Ambassador Cited

MB250758 Johannesburg Television Service in English
1800 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] The American senior defense attache to South Africa is to be expelled from this country, a step being taken in retaliation for the decision by the United States to expel a South African military attache from Washington. The latest moves on the diplomatic front are part of a chain of events prompted by South Africa's cross-border raids on bases of the ANC. But at the United Nations, the United States, together with Britain, has vetoed a new call for anti-South African sanctions. The American diplomat to be expelled is Colonel Robert Hastie. In Washington, Brigadier Alex Potgieter has been given 10 days to return to South Africa.

[Begin video] [Correspondent Fanus Venter, in Washington] The severity of the United States' message to South Africa is contained in the words of Secretary of State George Shultz, who yesterday said that there was no justification for South Africa's actions. This followed on a meeting with the ambassador [as heard] of Botswana.

[Shultz] Foreign Minister Chiepe and I share an outrage at South Africa's raid on Botswana as well as other countries. It was totally without justification and is completely unacceptable.

[Chiepe] The government is trying to solve differences by peaceful negotiation and this is what we get from the South Africans. They are trying to put the people against their government. They dropped pamphlets which said they had no fight with the people, they are their friends and neighbors, but it is their government that assists ANC gangsters and there was no truth in what they said.

[Venter] About the diplomatic message being sent to South Africa, I spoke to the ambassador, Herbert Beukes.

[Beukes] I thought you should see the step as a political expression of a political gesture to send South Africa a message. That message has now been sent through the action of returning one of our staff members. The rest of the staff will remain. We have received confirmation of that, so we continue with our daily activities and programs.

[Venter] Are you sure? The White House reaction was quite severe. And the words yesterday by Secretary of State George Shultz were equally harsh. Is there any message in those words, in the wording?

[Beukes] Well, I think it is perhaps wiser to look beyond words. It is more important to consider the actions taken and it is indeed so that they may have considered a wide range of practical actions against us. In this case they have decided on a political expression, on this political symbol (?if you will). [end video]

Du Plessis Claims Police Supported AWB

MB231849 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans
1800 GMT 23 May 86

[Excerpts] In the latest developments surrounding last night's incidents at Pietersburg, the minister of manpower accused the police of supporting the rightwingers.

The role of the police last night at Pietersburg has evoked great reaction. The minister of manpower, Mr Piet du Plessis, who was to have been the chairman of the meeting, said the police were either unwilling or not in a position to maintain law and order. Mr Du Plessis said the commissioner of police had given him the assurance that the gathering of crowds outside the hall would not be allowed. Furthermore, the leader of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [Afrikaner Resistance Movement, AWB], Mr Eugene TerreBlanche, was conducted inside the hall by a senior police officer.

The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange refused to comment except to say that an investigation into all the incidents has been launched. He said the government will not tolerate villainous actions and not allow that the AWB and other organizations to dominate the political scene by means of intimidation.

Black Businessmen, ANC Meet in Lusaka

MB241015 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1000 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] South Africa's top black businessmen are meeting the ANC in Lusaka. The businessmen are grouped together in the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce or NAFCOC. The meeting opened this morning and from Harare here is Howard Barrell:

[illegible] this morning. The [illegible]-person NAFCOC delegation is led by Sam Motsuenyane of the African Bank. The ANC delegation led by the outlawed movement's president, Oliver Tambo, also included the ANC's deputy information chief, Pallo Jordan; the deputy head of the international department, Ruth Mompati; South African Congress of Trade Unions, SACTU, General Secretary John Nkadimeng; and South African Communist Party Chairman Joe Slovo.

The ANC spokesman said he expected the talks would cover a wide spectrum of issues ranging from black unity against apartheid to ANC economic policy. The communique is likely to be issued only on Tuesday when the black businessmen fly back to South Africa.

Eglin Discusses Mandela Release, National Council

MB231355 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1350 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] [no dateline as received] — The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, must "stop dragging his heels" and release Mr Nelson Mandela, jailed African National Congress [ANC] leader, Mr Colin Eglin, leader of the Progressive Federal Party, said today.

In a press statement on the National Statutory Council bill tabled in Parliament today, he said there was an urgent need to get "real negotiations" going between the "genuine leaders" of all sections of the population.

Whatever limited advisory role a national council, "based largely on existing racial structures", may be able to play, this was no substitute for real and effective negotiations between truly representative leaders.

"The reality is that the release of Mr Mandela is today a prerequisite for any representative and meaningful negotiations to get off the ground". His party would study the bill and comment on its provisions "in due course", he said.

Suspected Informer Killed After UDF Meeting

MB260813 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0810 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Cape Town, May 26, SAPA — A man suspected of being a police informer who was spotted at a United Democratic Front [UDF] mass meeting at Westridge, Mitchells Plain, was beaten repeatedly and stabbed to death late yesterday.

A police liaison officer for the Western Cape, Lieutenant Attie Laubscher, identified the man as Mr Moegsien Abrahams, a former member of the SA Defence Force. He was first seen inside the hall by UDF marshalls. Pandemonium broke out when the chairman, Mr Joe Adam, announced that "two unwelcome guests at the back of the hall must please leave". Members of the audience surged toward the back of the hall and ran outside in pursuit of the man.

Mr Abrahams, identified [illegible] platform where he was made [illegible] president, Mr Christmas Tinto, Miss Cheryl Carolus, Mr Joe Adam and UDF marshalls tried in vain to [illegible]. Occasionally members of the audience tried to hit [illegible] but were stopped by marshalls.

When the meeting ended and the audience rose [illegible] Sikelel i Africa [God Bless Africa] UDF [illegible] Mr Joseph Marks and other marshalls escorted [illegible] to a door at the back of the stage and let him out. H[illegible] large number of youths burst through the marshalls in [illegible] Abrahams, who was running towards some houses [illegible]. A few youths caught up with Mr Abrahams and [illegible] him with sticks and other objects.

Lieutenant Laubscher said that police were investigating a charge of murder. No arrests had yet been made.

Vigilantes Attack Mourners at Soweto Funeral

MB241147 Johannesburg SAPA in English [illegible] GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Johannesburg, May 24, SAPA [illegible] a trade unionist allegedly killed by vigilantes [illegible] when vigilantes attacked mourners and [illegible] family member told SAPA.

Mr Sipho Mngomezulu, a member of the Black [illegible] ers Union, and member of the Azanian People's [illegible] was abducted from his Emdeni home last week [illegible] vigilantes — and hacked to death.

The family member said a crowd of about [illegible] pangas, knives, stones and petrol bombs arrived [illegible] the Emdeni funeral and started sho[illegible] "They threw a petrol bomb at the tent [illegible] said. They then snatched the coffin and attempted [illegible] she said.

She said the police then arrived and dispersed the [illegible] dropped the coffin. The funeral then continued [illegible]ted. Police comment was not immediately available.

Five Reportedly Killed

MB260626 Umtata Capital Radio in English [illegible] GMT 26 May 86

[Text] A wave of political violence has [illegible] township, Soweto. The SAPA news agency [illegible] been killed, seven others [illegible] mob of youths went on the rampage [illegible].

The violence follows an attack on several houses [illegible] by a group of (?wild) youths calling themselves comrades. [illegible] apparent targets were members of black consciousness groups. Damage has been estimated at 100,000 rand and at least [illegible] families have been left homeless.

Police have confirmed only two of the deaths, one of them in a police shooting. The disturbances started at the funeral on Saturday of trade unionist Sipho Mngomezulu who was kidnapped and stoned to death last week. An armed group that stopped the hearse at the cemetery set the coffin carrying the corpse alight and sent mourners scurrying for cover. Police are investigating reports that members of the Azanian Students Movement went on a revenge killing and the spiral of violence followed.

Police 'Out in Force' for Le Grange Meeting

MB241207 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1205 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Ellisras, May 24, SAPA — Police were out in force at Ellisras High School and in the town itself by midday today in preparation for a National Party [NP] gathering where the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, was scheduled to speak later this afternoon.

There was no sign of the right-wing Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [Afrikaner Resistance Movement, AWB] organisation which had threatened to break up the meeting, as happened in Brits recently, in Pietersburg on Thursday and in Wardem in the Orange Free State last night.

Gen Bert Wandrag, chief of the SAP riot unit was at the grounds to coordinate the strong police contingent. Brig J. van Rensburg, police chief for the area, and the man who ordered the dispersal of AWB members in two teargas incidents in Pietersburg, was also present.

Police stationed at the school gates monitored cars going in and policeman, some with dogs, were stationed in the school grounds around the main building. About eight police vans and buses were also positioned at some distance around the main building. By 2pm, few people had arrived and NP workers were still setting up equipment and entertainment facilities for the party gathering.

An NP official from the party's headquarters in Pretoria said police had made the decision on their own to be present and to ensure that the meeting would not be disrupted. Police would not stop people from attending, but were there to deal with a possible hooligan element.

Five AWB Members Arrested

MB250946 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1649 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Ellisras, May 24, SAPA — Five members of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [Afrikaner Resistance Movement, AWB] were arrested in Ellisras today after they had tried to gain access to a National Party [NP] gathering in the town where the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, spoke.

A police spokesman confirmed the arrests, saying a man had been arrested on charges of drunkenness and would probably be released when he sobered up, but that charges were being investigated against the other four in terms of security legislation prohibiting illegal outdoor meetings. They are expected to appear in the Ellisras magistrates court on Monday.

The arrests took place earlier in the afternoon when a contingent of police, numbering about 120, surrounded the school grounds in the town and closely monitored people arriving for the meeting.

All was peaceful, with about 200 NP supporters attending the gathering when a group of about 15 AWB members arrived at the gate and demanded they be allowed to attend. An NP official told police the AWB men were not party members and asked for them to be removed. About 30 policemen linked arms and forcibly ejected the AWB men out into the road. A number of the AWB members continued to argue loudly with police and they were arrested. Among those arrested was Mr Dries Alberts, a senior member of the AWB.

Addressing supporters in the school hall shortly afterwards, Mr le Grange said it was "extremely unfortunate" that violence had taken over at the NP meeting in Pietersburg on Thursday but said the government would not allow political brawling to take place. "In future, when it happens, action will be taken no matter who is involved," he said.

A comprehensive investigation into events at Pietersburg was underway under the supervision of Major-General Stan Schutte, the number two CID [Criminal Investigations Department] chief in the country.

Emphasising that the investigation was not into police action but into serious allegations, including assault, malicious damage to property and public violence, Mr Le Grange said prosecutions would follow if the results of the investigation required this.

The minister dismissed allegations from some quarters that police had not acted correctly and said that he had no doubt the SAP was a force loyal to the state, the government of the day and not to any political party.

"The police did also not use excessive force in Pietersburg ... police do not use teargas without warning," he said.

Aggressive AWB members who had taken over the meeting by sheer numbers and intimidation had to take the blame for the violence. "They were the cause of it under the leadership of their leader, Mr Eugene TerreBlanche and (Clive) Derby Lewis of Johannesburg," Mr le Grange said.

On behalf of the government he wanted to assure every policeman of the state's appreciation of the work done by them under difficult circumstances.

"The government stands by the police."

On the security situation in South Africa Mr le Grange said the government was in control and that people who said it did not act strongly enough should realise resorting to the rifle themselves was not the answer. The government was taking steps, legislatively, to expand security legislation in Parliament, which should produce the desired results within the next few weeks.

The police force was also being expanded, municipal police were being trained, and a start would probably be made soon with the training of "special constables".

"Over the last 22 months of violence and unrest, 19000 people had been arrested on related charges and 400 people were currently in detention in terms of security legislation."

During this period 1500 people had been killed of which about two-thirds had been the result of police action and the remainder had died at the hands of revolutionaries, many of them in gruesome ways.

There was no mention of a relaxation of government action, "and we are acting strongly".

"If our enemies think they have in any sense come up against the full might of South Africa's security forces, they are making a big mistake," Mr le Grange said.

AWB Members Disrupt NP Meeting in Warden

MB250853 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1800 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Members of the Afrikaner Weerstandbeweging last night broke up another National Party [NP] meeting. This time they prevented a meeting from taking place at the Orange Free State town of Warden. Agriculture and Water Supply Minister Sarel Hayward was to have addressed the meeting.

A police spokesman said the town hall was packed to capacity with about 500 people. Mr Hayward gave up an attempt to speak after constant interruptions from a rowdy element. The police spokesman said there had been no damage to property and no arrests had been made. Mr Hayward was able to address a meeting later at another venue.

Five Hacked to Death Near Crossroads

MB250447 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1432 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Cape Town, May 24, SAPA — Five occupants of a minibus were shot at, forced out of their vehicle and hacked to death in Lansdowne Road near Crossroads. One of the men has been identified as Mr Cecil Stevens, 20, of Bomtcheuwel.

The account of the group's last few minutes began unfolding about 2am yesterday morning, according to police spokesman Lieutenant Attie Laubscher. The men were travelling towards Crossroads in the minibus when they were shot at from the direction of Crossroads, he said. A short distance farther on they were fired at again and one of the minibus occupants — a man aged about 45 — was hit in the left hand. They tried to keep the bus moving but were forced to a halt when a crowd of people blocked their way. The five occupants of the minibus were then bundled out and hacked to death.

Lieutenant Laubscher said he was uncertain how these details had been pieced together but, soon after the incident, police arrested a 20-year-old man. "He may have provided information," Lieutenant Laubscher said.

PFP: Resettlement Plans 'Disgraceful'

MB260455 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2106 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Cape Town, May 25, SAPA — The Progressive Federal Party's [PFP] unrest monitoring and action committee tonight called on the government to immediately cease plans to resettle squatter refugees in Khayelitsha, describing the plans as "highly provocative and utterly disgraceful."

In a statement, the committee said: "The shocking developments in Crossroads over the past week have exposed the government's strategy to manipulate the Crossroads community for its own political ends. The attempts being made at present to squeeze out of Crossroads/Nyanga those people whose homes were burnt down and so force them to settle in Khayelitsha is highly provocative and utterly disgraceful." "We call on the government to immediately cease these attempts at forcibly removing the refugees and to enter into negotiatons with them and their leaders."

Earlier this afternoon about 2000 concerned Capetonians, clergymen and refugees gathered at the refugee camp on Lansdowne Road to hold a special service for the homeless.

Meanwhile, fighting in the Crossroads complex has taken on a sinister new turn with refugees and vigilantes being abducted and executed in gruesome killings. Late on Friday, the driver and four passengers in a taxi which lost its way were hacked to death by vigilantes and dumped in a swamp in the heart of Crossroads.

Tension ran high throughout the weekend as young militants from among the refugees, reinforced by "comrades" from the surrounding townships, manned roadblocks on the exit roads from Crossroads. Comrades have set up permanent guards around the main refugee centres, and as rumours mounted that the KTC squatter camp between Nyanga and Guguletu, was next on the vigilante "hitlist," squads of "comrades" patrolled the area and set up roadblocks made of concrete blocks and burnt out cars. All vehicles coming from the direction of Crossroads were searched for vigilantes. On the other side, vigilantes stopped and searched all vehicles entering or leaving Crossroads.

Yesterday afternoon at about 3.15pm, an SADF foot patrol in the ruins of Nyanga Bush, was stoned by a group of young people who ambushed it from behind a line of shacks.

Tonight, a spokesman for the Red Cross reassured relief workers that the organization had not withdrawn from the refugee camps as was rumoured yesterday. Mrs Bertha Blackwood-Murrary, regional director of the SA Red Cross, said the Lansdowne Road refugee camp had been moved some 400m into Nyanga "after requests from the refugees themselves." Mrs Blackwood-Murrary said the Red Cross withdrew its workers last night and again tonight "because the situation was just too dangerous."

Death Toll at Least 42

MB261148 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] The burnt bodies of two people who were murdered with so-called necklaces were found this morning in the Crossroads squatter camp. This brings the death toll in the area since fighting began last week between opposing groups to at least 42.

Police say the deaths of only 33 people is directly attributable to the fighting and an intensive investigation is under way to establish the cause of the other deaths. Our Cape Town news staff reports that it was quiet in the squatter camp this morning.

PFP Calls for Snap Debate

MB261317 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1250 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] House of Assembly, May 26, SAPA — The official opposition has called for a snap debate on the situation in the Crossroads squatter camp near Cape Town.

The Progressive Federal Party's western Cape spokesman on black affairs, Mr Ken Andrew, gave notice of the debate today.

According to his motion, the half-hour debate, called for tomorrow afternoon, will be on "the situation and the role played by the authorities at Crossroads, and in particular the unrest there."

It is the third such parliamentary debate in two weeks. Last week, the House of Assembly and the House of Delegates held snap debates on the SADF raids on ANC facilities in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

Court Asked To Restrain SAP, SADF

MB261340 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1312 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Cape Town, May 26, SAPA — An urgent application for an interdict has been made to the Cape Town Supreme Court today by leaders of the Nyanga Bush, Nyanga Extension, Portlands Cement and KTC squatter communities to restrain the SA Police and Defence Force from assisting in, participating in or encouraging any unlawful attack on the KTC squatter camp.

A statement released by the leaders today said that more than 20 affidavits have been submitted to the Supreme Court including those of squatter leaders, residents of the ravaged squatter camps and community workers who have personal knowledge of, and bore witness to the brutal attacks over the past week, by vigilantes and members of the SA Police and Army.

Their statement said that over the past week three squatter camps in Cape Town known as Nyanga Bush, Nyanga Extension and Portlands Cement have been razed to the ground. Shacks have been burnt, residents attacked, shot and killed, their belongings plundered and entire communities have been rendered homeless. The death toll at present stands at 32.

"We believe that the attacks have been perpetrated by groups of vigilantes from the Old Crossroads squatter camp commonly known as "Witdoeke", [white scarves] actively assisted and encouraged by members of the SA Police and Defence Force. Those of us who are leaders of the dispossessed squatter communities were warned about a month ago by the leader of the vigilantes at Old Crossroads that, assisted by the police, he would destroy our areas and thereafter advance on the KTC squatter camp, also in the area. On Friday May 23 the police moved into KTC squatter camp in full force harrassing the community.

"The residents of KTC see the police presence as the prelude to a massive offensive upon us. The situation at the KTC squatter camp is tense. Our residents, who fear the worst, have mobilised the homeguard. We of the KTC believe an attack on us like the one that ravaged the neighbouring three squatter camps could be imminent and that we face grave danger. We see one of the remedies available to us at this stage to be relief in the form of a court order restraining the vigilantes, mmbers of the SA Police and Defence Force from unlawfully attacking us," the statement said.

The statement is signed by C. Toise (Portland Cement squatter camp), M. Yamile (Nyanga Bush squatter camp), A. Sipika (Nyanga Extension Squatter Camp), Simo Menziwa (Nyanga Bush squatter camp), Zenzile Memani (Masincedane Community KTC Executive) and Milton Mbewama (Masincedane community, KTC executive).

Temporary Restraining Order Granted

MB261918 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1909 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Cape Town, May 26, SAPA — A temporary interdict restraining police, soldiers and "Witdoeke" [white scarves] from participating in or permitting unlawful attacks on people or property in the KTC squatter camp was granted by the Supreme Court today. The application was brought by six squatter leaders, three of whom are members of the committee formed to resist removal from KTC.

The other three — Mr Alfred Siphika, Mr Melford Vamile and Mr Christopher Toise — now live in KTC but used to live in Nyanga Extension, Nyanga Bush and Portland Cement camps which were destroyed over the weekend of 17 and 18 May.

The urgent application sought an order against the minister of law and order, the minister of defence, the officer commanding of the western province command of the Defence Force, the commissioner of police, the divisional commissioner of police, the Athlone district police commandant, the Guguletu police station commander, one Warrant-Officer Barnard, Mr Sam Ndima and Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana.

The six squatter leaders, who were given a mandate for their suit by the people of KTC yesterday, allege in papers before court that "Witdoeke," the "persons most prominent in the destruction of the camps," were residents of Old Crossroads and owed allegiance to Mr Ngxobongwana and his lieutenant Mr Ndima.

They claim that the application was brought because they had reason to fear that "the destruction of homes has been part of a systematic plan and that KTC is the next township that will be attacked." The papers said it had been threatened that if KTC was not cleared by tonight, the houses would be burnt during the night. "These threats were made on three separate occasions and involve memebrs of both the SADF and police, and are testified to by nine different deponents."

Earlier threats had been made by Mr Ngxobongwana "and have been carried out in relation to the other camps."

The papers said there was evidence that police had supplied "Witdocke" with arms and ammunition, including grenade throwers, and participated actively in the burning of houses. There was also evidence that police and SADF members had used teargas on or fired on residents of squatter camps who resisted "Witdocke" or attempted to rescue their belongings. "There is also evidence that a significant and coordinating role was played by a warrant-officer in the police force, namely W/O Barnard.

"The affidavits also disclose a reason why the SAP and the SADF should have been involved. It appears that it was governmental policy that the areas should be cleared with a view ultimately to upgrading them and making them available to the residents of Old Crossroads."

A sworn statement by Colonel M.G. Mans of the Western Province Division of the police, handed in by Mr G.D. Griessel, SC, on behalf of most of the respondents, said an interdict could only "limit and seriously hamper the activities of the security forces. It could lead to the ... withdrawal of all security forces from the area which will result in the collapse of law and order and a bloodbath between rival factions."

Mr Justice C.T. Howie rejected this argument, saying the acts feared by the applicants "could hardly be said to be ambiguous in their scope and intent," and he did not see that a court order would in any way inhibit security forces in the execution of their duties.

A temporary interdict was accordingly granted, restraining the respondents from participating in or permitting unlawful attacks and directing those who are members of the police and SADF to "take all reasonably necessary steps" to prevent such attacks. The court ordered further that the divisional commissioner of police assist the deputy sheriff to serve the order on Mr Ngxobongwana and Mr Ndima. The return date is June 13.

Six Killed in Durban Township Violence

MB251130 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1100 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] There has been another wave of retaliatory violence in Durban's township war between conservatives and progressives. Six people were shot and hacked to death early this morning by armed Amabuth vigilantes apparently in retaliation for last week's necklacing of six Amabutho members in the township. Carmel Rickard has more:

[Rickard] The victims included the father and a son of the Phungula family involved in a Supreme Court application against two prominent KwaMashu personalities. A father and two sons of a neighboring family also died when the Amabutho numbering over 100 attacked the house and broke open the doors. The sixth victim was a visitor from out of town who was caught up in the battle.

These killings follow a march of 700 Amabuth through KwaMashu streets on Friday night. They disrupted power to several sections of the township and last night street lights in some parts were still not restored. Police say they have not taken any action against the people as they had not received any reports that they had acted illegally.

Further on Durban Violence

MB260819 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0817 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Durban, May 26, SAPA — The death roll in clashes which began last Tuesday in KwaMashu, Durban, rose to 14 at the weekend following attacks by impis [warrior regiments]. Township sources put the number of deaths at the weekend at six.

However, police were only able to confirm five of the deaths. Eight people died during the week. Of the men killed at the weekend five were shot dead by impis in a midnight attack. These deaths were confirmed by the police.

The sixth death was registered after the body of an unidentified youth, believed by residents to be a visitor from Port Shepstone, was found in the same area. A man was injured on Saturday morning during an attack by more than 2000 members of an impi. Two of the families attacked were recently granted an order by the Supreme Court restraining Inkatha members and local councillors from attacking their homes.

The latest killings are believed to be the continuation of a clash between pupils and impis which exploded on Tuesday when the pupils killed six members of the impis after attacks on schools. Residents believe impis plan to silence dissident pupils. Panic-stricken people, however, said impis indiscriminately assaulted residents.

Mr Antony Dlamini, 65, was stabbed to death on Friday morning and his house was gutted by fire. Police said the body of an unidentified youth with multiple wounds had been found on Friday.

It was tense in KwaMashu yesterday with some residents fleeing the township. A terrified woman said: "Members of impis entered all the houses in our section last night demanding to see male residents. I told my sons and husband to leave the township."

Meanwhile, at Umlazi township a youth was injured when a home was petrol-bombed. Two people were reported to have been shot dead in Chesterville, Durban, in a clash between comrades and the A-Team yesterday. The dead are believed to be members of the comrades, and one was reportedly set alight.

Police in Pretoria were unable to confirm this late last night.

Ciskei Pupil Reportedly Dies in Police Campus Raid

MB251136 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1100 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] It is reported from Ciskei that a senior student of Lennox Sebe College of Education has died during a police raid on the campus. Nokuzola Nduna is reported to have been killed when she jumped from a third-floor window in a bid to escape police who are said to have come on to the campus on Friday night, following a student protest at a local performance by a Welsh male voice choir.

Students allege they were assaulted indiscriminately and some are said to have broken limbs. Students say the Jones Choir should not hold a concert on campus because it breaks the cultural boycott on South Africa and wastes money which could be better spent updating living conditions and education.

Two Killed, Eight Injured in Landmine Blast

MB260450 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2025 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 25, SAPA — Two black men were killed and eight people injured when the van they were travelling in detonated a landmine in the eastern Transvaal today, police said.

A spokesman for the Police Public Relations Division in Pretoria said the incident occurred on a dirt road on the farm Graspan about 12 km from Davel at 6.30am. Two black men were killed and five people were seriously injured, the spokesman said. He added that three others also sustained injuries. All the injured were taken to hospital in Ermelo. Police said all those involved in the blast were members of the same family and were from Tembisa, near Kempton Park.

The microbus had been travelling in convoy with another vehicle and the passengers of the second vehicle were able to assist the passengers of the van in escaping from the wreckage which had caught fire. Two of the passengers were killed instantly while five others sustained serious injuries including the loss of limbs. The three other passengers sustained only minor injuries.

Police and ambulances were on the scene within 30 minutes. The names of the dead and injured have not been released.

The passengers of the two vehicles had been on their way to visit family living on the farm which is owned by Mr Jacobus Durr. The landmine had been planted on the first stretch of the gravel road leading to the farm.

Second Landmine Found, Detonated

MB260801 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0758 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 26, SAPA — A second landmine was found and detonated by police about 10km from the spot where two people were killed by a landmine blast near Davel yesterday. Police found the mine on an access road to the Farm Nooitgedacht, managed by Mr Dirk Pieterse, at 11am, an hour after the fatal blast on the Farm Graspan. The mine had been planted on the left-hand side of the road, near the Estancia T-junction on the Davel-Hendrina road, a police public relations division spokesman said in Pretoria today. It was taken to a nearby mealieland and detonated.

Third Land Mine Explodes

MB261741 Johannesburg SAPA in Engish 1733 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 26, SAPA — A third landmine detonated under a tractor and trailer in the Transvaal today, shocking but not injuring the driver, police said this evening. A senior police spokesman told SAPA the blast took place at 16.40 on the Farm Graspan — scene of a fatal land mine blast at the weekend — on a dirt road. The tractor driver was not identified.

A second landmine was found and detonated by police about 10km from the spot where two people were killed by the landmine blast near Davel yesterday, police said earlier today. Police found the second mine on an access road to the Farm Mooitgedacht, managed by Mr Dirk Pieterse, at 11am — an hour after the fatal blast on the Graspan Farm, the earlier police statement said. The second mine had been planted on the left-hand side of the road, near the Estancia T-junction on the Davel-Hendrina road. It was taken to a nearby mealie (corn) field and detonated.

Police had no immediate further information on the third blast.

Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports

23 May

MB231800 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1758 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 23, SAPA — Following is the unrest situation report for the period 8am to 7pm today as issued by the SAP Public Relations Division in Pretoria:

"At Kanyamazane, near Nelspruit, an attempt was made to burn a black policeman to death. The mob was dispersed with tear-smoke and pistol fire.

"In the same area, a black woman and a child were burned to death when their home was petrol-bombed. A bus was extensively damaged in a petrol bomb attack.

"At Guguletu, near Cape Town, two petrol bombs were hurled at a private dwelling. A man and a woman were abducted from this house. In another incident, shots were fired at a police vehicle. No one was injured.

"At Kagiso (in the West Rand), a delivery vehicle was extensively damaged when it was set alight.

"At Mahwelereng, near Potgietersrus, a man and a youth were arrested after a petrol bomb attack on a private vehicle.

"At Daveyton, near Benoni, an attempt was made to burn a man. The police dispersed the mob before they could do so.

"At Tonga, near Nelspruit, a private vehicle and a tractor were damaged by petrol bombs. A man was injured in one of these incidents. In the same area, a building on a farming project was extensively damaged by arsonists.

"At KwaMashu, near Durban, a man died after his home was set alight and seriously damaged. In a similar incident, a private home was extensively damaged by arsonists. Another man was seriously injured when an attempt was made to set him alight. In the same area, a youth's body was found with multiple stab wounds.

"At Claremont, also near Durban, a delivery vehicle was damaged by a mob of stone-throwers, who were dispersed with tearsmoke.

"In Soweto (WWR) [Witwatersrand], a shop was damaged by stone-throwers and a delivery vehicle was set alight and extensively damaged.

"At Bontcheuwel, near Cape Town, a municipal vehicle and a private vehicle were damaged in petrol bomb attacks.

"At KwaThema, near Springs, a number of delivery vehicles were damaged when they were set alight.

"At Katlehong, near Alberton, shotguns were used to disperse stone-throwers. A black youth was arrested. A mob barricading a road was dispersed with quirts. A youth was arrested in connection with this incident.

"In the same area, a beerhall was stoned and extensively damaged, while at Thokoza, a number of private dwellings were damaged by arsonists.

"At Mangwane Trust, near White River, a vehicle was extensively damaged when it was set alight.

"At Zweletemba, near Oudtshoorn, a youth was arrested after a petrol bomb was hurled at a police vehicle."

Early 24 May

MB240626 Johannesburg SAPA in Egnlish 0624 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 24, SAPA — Following is the SAP overnight unrest report:

"At Kwa-Mashu, near Durban, a number of buses were damaged by stonethrowers.

"At Oligantsfontein, on the East Rand, three men were arrested when they threw a petrol bomb onto the premises of a municipal swimming bath, causing no damage.

"At KaNyamazane, near Nelspruit, two buses were destroyed by fires, caused by a petrol bomb and methylated spirits. In another incident, police arrested two men after an illegal gathering. A private dwelling was extensively damaged in a petrol bomb attack.

"At Kabokweni, near Nelspruit, a private vehicle was extensively damaged when it was petrol-bombed.

"At Soweto (WWR) [Witwatersrand], a number of private and delivery vehicles, shops and a private dwelling were damaged by arsonists and stonethrowers. At Legogott, near White River, a private home was damaged by arsonists.

"In the black residential area near Bethal, bus passengers were intimidated and a bus extensively damaged when it was set alight.

"At the bus terminus in Nelspruit, an attempt was made to burn a bus. The arsonists were dispersed with shotgun fire. A youth was injured.

"At Senterton, near Hankey, in the Eastern Province, an SADF foot patrol was stoned. The mob was dispersed with rifle fire. A man was wounded and arrested. In the same area, a number of petrol bombs were hurled at a councillor's home. The mob was dispersed with shotgun, pistol and rifle fire. Four men were fatally wounded.

"At Mapodi, near Springfontein, in the OFS [Orange Free State], two men and a woman were arrested when they stoned a beerhall.

"At Vosloorus, near Boksburg, a private home was damaged in a petrol bomb attack.

"At Daveyton, on the East Rand, a private home was stoned. Police guards fired shotguns to ward off the attack. A man was wounded and arrested. A beer depot was damaged by arsonists in the same area, while, in another incident, a man was wounded and arrested when he hurled a petrol bomb at an administration board vehicle.

"At Edendale, in Natal, a private dwelling was extensively damaged by arsonists.

"At Alexandria, near Port Elizabeth, a private home was petrol-bombed and extensively damaged. The attackers were dispersed with pistol fire. Three men were fatally wounded.

"At Galeshewe, near Kimberly, a library, a private dwelling and a private vehicle were extensively damaged by arsonists.

"At Kathlehong, near Germiston, two private dwellings were damaged in petrol bomb attacks.

"In the black residential area near De Aar, a shop was extensively damaged in a fire, caused by a petrol bomb."

Ends report.

Late 24 May

MB250445 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1620 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 22, SAPA — The SAP Public Relations Directorate in Pretoria has sent its unrest situation report to 7pm which follows:

"In Soweto on the Witwatersrand two private dwellings were extensively damaged in petrol bomb attacks. In the same area police came across two men who were setting fire to a private vehicle. They fired on the men fatally wounding one of them. In another incident a man was arrested when he stoned a police vehicle.

"At Daveyton near Benoni a private vehicle was extensively damaged when it was petrol bombed and a man was seriously injured when a man attempted to burn him to death.

"At Umlazi near Durban a private home was gutted in a petrol bomb attack. A youth was injured.

"In Kathlehong on the East Rand a bus was extensively damaged by stone throwers.

"At Sebokeng on the West Rand two schools were severely damaged by arsonists."

Early 25 May

MB250644 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0642 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 25, SAPA — Following is the SAP overnight unrest report:

"At Lingelihle near Cradock, police vehicles were stoned on a number of occasions. A man was arrested during one of these incidents.

"At Alexandria near Port Elizabeth, a private home was extensively damaged when it was petrol bombed.

"At Bongweni near Cookhouse a large mob attempted to burn a man. They were dispersed with rifle fire. No injuries were reported.

"At KwaZakele near Port Elizabeth, a private home and a private vehicle were extensively damaged in a petrol bomb attack. In the black residential area near Witbank, a number of private vehicles were damaged when they were set alight. In the same area a shot was fired at a police vehicle. No-one was injured.

"At Nyanga near Cape Town a man was burned to death by a mob, and a number of shots were fired at SAP members. No-one was injured. At a mine near Krugersdorp a man was necklaced. He was seriously burned.

"At Zolani near Ashton in the Boland a private home and a private motor-vehicle were extensively damaged when they were set alight. Four men and a woman were injured by the mob. Pistol and shotgun rounds were fired to disperse the arsonists. Five men and a youth were wounded and arrested.

"At Duncan Village near East London a shop was damaged by arsonists. At Olive Schreiner near De Aar, a private home was damaged in a petrol bomb attack.

"At KwaNobuhle near Uitenhage, police fired shotguns to disperse a mob attempting to burn a man. A man was arrested. In the same area the body of a black man was found. He had been hacked to death and his body set alight.

"In Soweto on the Witwatersrand the burned body of a man was found.

"At KwaMashu near Durban the bodies of five black males were found."

Late 25 May

MB260445 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1703 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 25, SAPA — Following is the SAP 7pm unrest situation report:

"At Daveyton, on the East Rand, a private home was damaged by arsonists.

"At Joza, near Grahamstown, the body of a man was found. He had been stabbed to death and his body was burnt.

"At Donaldtrust, near Napier, eastern Transvaal, a delivery vehicle was extensively damaged when it was set alight.

"At Soweto, Witwatersrand, four private homes were damaged by arsonists.

"At Zolani, near Ashton, Boland, a development board vehicle was stoned. The mob was dispersed with revolver-fire and a man was seriously wounded.

"At Mbekwene, near Paarl, a private vehicle was extensively damaged by arsonists."

Early 26 May

MB260739 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0736 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 26, SAPA — Here follows the SAP's 8am unrest situation report:

The following incidents of unrest were reported during the night:

At Chesterville near Durban a man was hacked and burnt to death.

Four incidents occurred when the SAP used tearsmoke to disperse mobs when they gathered illegally. A woman was arrested during one of these incidents. A man was seriously injured when four private dwellings were set alight.

The SAP used tearsmoke and shotgun fire to disperse a mob when a man was attacked with knives. Two men were arrested during this incident. In another incident a man was stabbed to death.

At Daantjies Trust near Nelspruit a mob was dispersed with tearsmoke when they gathered illegally and failed to comply with a request by the SAP to disperse.

At Soweto (WWR) [Witwatersrand] two drivers were robbed of their vehicles.

At the black residential area near Heilbron the beerhall was extensively damaged by arsonists.

At Cathcart black residential area, in the border area, a round of birdshot was used by the SAP to disperse a mob when the police station was stoned.

At Kathlehong near Germiston a SAP vehicle was attacked with gunfire of unknown calibre. The SAP defended themselves by using birdshot and rifle fire. No injuries were reported.

At Alexandra near Johannesburg the driver of a vehicle used a 9mm pistol when his vehicle was stoned. A man was wounded and arrested.

At KwaNomzamo near Humansdorp the SAP used tearsmoke when their vehicles were stoned on two occasions.

At Lynville near Witbank a vehicle was destroyed by arsonists.

At Douglas Colry black residential area near Blinkpan in the eastern Transvaal a hostel was extensively damaged when set alight. Two men were hacked to death.

At Nyanga near Wynberg the SAP dispersed a mob with tearsmoke when a road was barricaded. Several incidents occurred where the SAP dispersed mobs with birdshot when their vehicles were stoned and on three occasions shot at.

At KwaMashu near Durban 10 men were arrested when they were in the process of making petrol bombs.

At Theunissen in the northern OFS [Orange Free State], the dwelling of a councillor was slightly damaged when set alight.

At Fingo near the Grahamstown development board policemen dispersed a mob with pistol fire when they tried to set alight a dwelling. A man was wounded and arrested.

Late 26 May

MB261735 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1724 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 26, SAPA — Following is the SAP unrest situation report to 7pm:

"The following incidents of unrest were reported during the day:

"In the black residential area near Queenstown, a private vehicle was set alight and extensively damaged.

"At Tumahole near Parys, a school was stoned. Police arrested a man.

"In the coloured residential area of Paarl East, an SAP vehicle was stoned. The mob was dispersed with tear smoke and shotgun fire. Three men and two women were slightly wounded.

"At Sebokeing near Vereeniging, a school was extensively damaged by arsonists.

"At Ngandizeni Trust near White River, a man was burned to death and his vehicle extensively damaged when it was set alight.

"In the black residential area near Bethal, police arrested 80 youths during an illegal gathering at a school. A youth was injured by the group before the police intervened and dispersed them with tear smoke. In the same area, a beerhall was extensively damaged by arsonists and a man seriously injured when he was "necklaced."

"At Machilisa near Pietermaritzburg, a private home was damaged by arsonists.

"At Dambuza near Edendale (Natal), a private home was extensively damaged when it was stoned and set alight.

"At Thokoza near Germiston, police vehicles were petrol bombed and stoned on a number of occasions. These mobs were dispersed with tear smoke and shotgun fire. A youth was wounded and arrested.

"At Kathlehong, also near Germinston, three youths were arrested when they stoned a police vehicle.

"In Daveyton, a bus was extensively damaged by stonethrowers.

"At Moseshame near Pietersburg, a private home was extensively damaged in a petrol bomb attack. Police arrested three men and three women.

"At Mariti near Bosbokrand in the far northern Transvaal, police arrested 16 youths when they petrol bombed a private home.

"At Kabokweni near White River, SADF members were stoned. A man was arrested in connection with this incident."

Early 27 May

MB270644 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0642 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] Pretoria, May 27, SAPA — The following is the 8am unrest report from the Police Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria:

"The following incidents of unrest were reported overnight:
"At Tokoza near Germiston, four dwellings were extensively damaged by arsonists.

"At Katlehong near Germiston the SAP dispersed a mob with pistol fire when they tried to rob a private vehicle. A man was wounded and arrested.

"A delivery vehicle was totally destroyed by arsonists.

"At KwaTema near Springs a man was arrested when a mob threw spirits over a youth and set him alight. He sustained serious burn wounds.

"At Soweto (WWR) [Witwatersrand], a private dwelling was extensively damaged by arsonists.

"In other incidents, two drivers were robbed of their vehicles.

"At Langa near Uitenhage a male youth was burnt to death.

"In another incident a delivery vehicle was extensively damaged by arsonists. A similar incident occurred at Fingo near Grahamstown.

"At New Brighton near Port Elizabeth, shots were fired at two white men while they were working at the Adock black old age home.

"In another incident a member of the railway police was wounded in the leg when shots were fired at a vehicle of the railway police. In the same area the SAP (South African police) discovered the charred body of a woman.

"At Daveyton near Benonie the SAP dispersed a mob with pistol and gunfire when a vehicle was stoned. No injures were reported.

"At Pheritama near Heilbron a shop was extensively damaged when it was stoned.

"At KwaNobuhle near Uitenhage five dwellings were set alight during a faction fight between AZAPO (Azanian People's Organisation) and UDF (United Democratic Front) members.

"At Linghelihle near Cradock the SAP dispersed a mob with birdshot and tearsmoke when their vehicle was stoned.

"At Ikageng near Potchefstroom a vehicle of the development board was petrol-bombed. During the incident members of the development board dispersed the mob with birdshot, arresting two men.

"At Chesterville near Durban a man was fatally wounded when the SAP and SADF (South African Defence Force) used shotgun and rifle fire to disperse a mob of arsonists when a private dwelling was petrol-bombed."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

[Editorial Report]

CAPE TIMES on PFP

"Few political campaigns have been as well timed as that of the Progressive Federal Party's [PFP], launched this week to 'save South Africa,'" Cape Town *CAPE TIMES* in English on 22 May says in an editorial on page 10. The National Party government's credibility is at a "low ebb" after the cross-border raids and "deep doubt exists as to its commitment to negotiation with many of the real leaders of black South Africans." It is becoming increasingly hardline in its suppression of civil liberties and because of its actions, "the economy is floundering from one political crisis to the next. The PFP is probably the only political grouping of any size operating within the parliamentary system which still enjoys a large measure of support among the various races." It has the ability "to play a crucial role in national bridge-building." The PFP's role at present and in the immediate future "is as a catalyst of change and as a provider of a balance of power in any realignment of political forces." There is also another role for the PFP, and that "is to prepare South Africans of all races for a 'post-apartheid society.'" Such a society is inevitable, but if it emerges after a bloody revolution "it will almost certainly be more unbearable for whites than the present system is for disenfranchised blacks. White South Africans still have a choice. The PFP campaign will hopefully help to persuade them to make the right one."

CAPE TIMES on Outdoor Meetings Ban

In a second editorial on the same page, the *CAPE TIMES* says that Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange should "reconsider the ban on outdoor gatherings which has been in force continously since October 1977." The ban "is not only a denial of freedom of assembly and of protest, but the application of the law can in itself lead to confrontation which would otherwise not have occurred." This can be seen by police and student clashes at the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Cape Town. Had the police not attempted to break up protest meetings at the universities, it is likely that there would not have been violence. However, there were no incidents when police allowed a group of Crossroads women to converge on Parliament and the women dispersed peacefully after they had been allowed to send a deputation to discuss their problems with MP's. "This is how gatherings should be handled. The present ban is no service to society or to the police force whose duty is to implement it. Freedom of assembly should be restored in the interests of peaceful assembly."

Unions, Employers Oppose Brits Removal

In a column on the same page, Phillip van Neikerk discusses opposition to efforts to relocate residents of Brits' old black location. "Brits is an example of the politics of unions and employers — which has been the cutting edge of black-white relations in this country for more than seven years — spilling over into the communities rather than vice versa. The Brits location is a union town and opposition to the removal has been spearheaded by union leaders, who have brought a pragmatic style of politics born of more than a decade of gradually acquiring power on the shop floor. More remarkable is the response of Brits employers and national employer federations who have intervened to try to stop the removals." Many of the community leaders in Brits are shop stewards from the National Automobile and Allied Workers Union and the Metal and Allied Workers Union, who have learned a form of politics which involves "working squarely within mandates towards achievable goals through pressure as well as negotiation," while the Steel and Engineering Federation of South Africa indicates "a new-found willingness to act against what they perceive as injustice."

CITIZEN on Crossroads Violence

"The battle of Crossroads is the worst example of the black against black violence that is gripping some areas," Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 23 May says in an editorial on page 6. The fighting at the camp is "a tragedy of mammoth proportions, a heartrending explosion of pent-up hatreds, a sad reflection of those who have resorted to ghastly violence in order to settle scores or to gain communal power." It is a situation that cannot be allowed to continue. "If most of the residents won't move, then Crossroads should be upgraded as the Urban Foundation suggests. Conditions hopefully will then be such that the community will be able to live in peace."

SOWETAN on Scrapping Homelands

"With trouble in Venda matching the steady build-up of similar problems in the soon-to-be independent KwaNdebele homeland, there is only one thing left to do about this sorry business of so-called homeland independence — scrap it, " Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 23 May says in an editorial on page 6. The homelands are "economic disasters" for which South Africa has to foot the bill. They are run by "mediocre leaders who have to make a system that is derided by the entire world and most of their population work." "If apartheid is a resounding failure then the homeland policy must also have failed." State President P.W. Botha has "enough problems without worrying about the blunders of tin-pot leaders who do not have the first lesson in ruling people."

'Focus' on Police Powers

In the "Focus" column on the same page, Sam Mabe discusses the Public Safety Amendment Bill which was introduced in "arliament this week, noting that the bill will give the minister of law and order powers that will allow him to declare "a virtual permanent state of emergency in South Africa." "The bill has disturbing features about it to people living in areas such as Mamelodi, Soweto, Kagiso, Alexandra, and Jouberton. If allegations that police are involved in some of the attacks against activists in these areas are true, it can be left to anyone's imagination how the powers given to the police by this law can be abused. The government might soon be faced with a difficult task of reconciling its reform programme with the threat posed to the rule of law by this bill." The Detainees Parents Support Committee is mounting a campaign to have the bill withdrawn and "the withdrawal of this bill might be what South Africa needs to give more credence to its claim that it is determined to bring about change."

CITY PRESS Says Killing Must Stop

Above its front-page editorial, entitled "It's Time To Stop ... While We Can," Johannesburg *CITY PRESS* in English on 25 May [date as published] carries a photograph of "a vigilante necklaced in KwaMashu," noting that "this is a picture of South Africa today. And it is a picture from a nightmare." The fact that the man was a vigilante who was killed in KwaMashu on Tuesday means little. This photograph shows a "man, a human being — burned to death in the most horrible, agonising way, by other men." The man had a mother, father, brothers, and sisters and "whatever his politics, he was a compatriot of ours, a South African who loved this land as deeply as any." "After so much killing, so much destruction, so much hatred, it is time to stop. P.W. Botha, when you talk of peace — now, after your government has done so much to deny us justice — South Africa says: We will make our own justice, then we will talk of peace. When you talk of reform — now, after your government has done so much to deny us our democratic rights — South Africa says: We will make our own democracy, then we will take of reform. Hark at these words, Mr Botha, or the fire in this picture will grow and spread — until even your armed forces cannot put it out."

Column on 'Barbaric' Raids

In his "Percy's Itch" column on page 4, Percy Qoboza discusses the SADF raids, writing: "It just blew my mind, and really made me wonder about the government's thinking processes — if they think at all. You see, in spite of the growing violence the last few months saw a wave of optimism that the government had finally come to its senses." There seemed to be hope that the violence was ending, until it was dashed by the "barbaric raids," which showed that "all the pontificating, the emotional sentiment, was just verbal garbage," and damaged the country's economy and international relations. One of the worst aspects of the raids, Qoboza says, is that Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda "has, in the last decade, played a positive role in encouraging meaningful negotiations. For his efforts and his dedication — and his obvious humanity — his sovereignty has been violated, and his people bombed."

STAR on National Council

In a page 8 editorial on Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Chris Heunis' announcement of the National Council (NC), Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 23 May says that while the list of those who are to serve on the council is "not a bad line-up, in theory," "in practice the range of leaders willing — and able — to serve on the NC could leave expectations unfulfilled. Many blacks will consider anyone ready to serve on this creation of the National Party to be a sell-out." "That there will be sufficient people to serve on the body is not at issue for people will always step forward, but their credibility is what is important. If Mr Heunis could persuade, say, Bishop Tutu to give the council a try, that would be an exciting breakthrough towards creating a better constitution. For the council to work political leaders will have to be released and banned political organisations unbanned. But with all those misgivings, the NC should, like peace, be given a chance."

STAR on 180-Day Detention

In a second page 8 editorial on the proposed amendment to the Internal Security Act which would allow people to be detained

180 days without trial, *THE STAR* says: "The new proposal is appalling — for its abuse of democracy, for its acknowledgement that even the present wide powers of the police are not enough, and for its demonstration of Cabinet bankrupicy when it comes to resolving endemic violence." Even more "ominous" are signs that the government "is bent on amassing the powers of a state of emergency without the necessity of declaring one."

STAR on Right Wing

In a third editorial on the same page, *THE STAR* discusses the Afrikaner Resistance Movement's (AWB) disruption of the National Party meeting in Pietersburg which was to have been addressed by Foreign Minister Pik Botha, noting: "For the country at large, here was an unedifying vision of the rampant right in full cry. In a way, though, this helped put the far-right in perspective. We all know it can muster crowds of a few thousand in selected areas and that its bully-boys can break up meetings. This still doesn't mean it can take over the government or the country. Last night's ugly scenes should help put off some potential supporters, too."

Slabbert on Identification Bill

In his "My View" column on the same page, Fredrik van Zyl Slabbert discusses the new Identification Bill currently before Parliament, noting that while a reform like abolishing of influx control "is without doubt an important shift in government policy, this new attempt at giving all South Africans a uniform identiy document is sleight of hand hypocrisy at its best." The bill contains no explicit reference to race or ethnicity and thereby creates the impression that all South Africans will get a uniform identiy document. However, "a careful reading of the bill shows there is 'a sting in the tail' after all. Section 5 (1) and (2) say: (a) The Director-General shall assign an identity number compiled in the prescribed manner, and (b) such assignation shall take place in terms of Section 6 of the Population Registration Act of 1950," according to which South Africans are classified at birth on the basis of race or ethnicity. This means that while there will be one common ID, "we will still all be separately classified by numbers which represent our respective racial identities. Thus the cornerstone of government policy, namely, compulsory racial group membership, remains." "The sad thing about it all is that this identification bill makes it quite clear that the government is determined to carry on with its own one-sidely determined group basis for reform. On this basis it is prepared to soften the harshness of apartheid, but not to abandon it."

BUSINESS DAY on Economic Recovery

"The international cry for sanctions in the wake of Monday's military raids — quickly exploited by Senators Edward Kennedy and Joseph Biden in the United States — emphasises how quickly economic recovery can become hostage to political events." Johannesburg *BUSINESS DAY* in English on 23 May says in an editorial on page 6. If the government truly wants the economy to recover, it must act quickly on matters like deregulation and stop delaying things like housing, which would generate work and wealth, with "the bureaucratic business of finding land, transferring it, surveying it, and generally fooling around with regulations." The tax system needs to be overhauled since the "tax burden is such as to drive skilled people to emigrate and to persuade companies and individuals to waste enormous effort on discovering and exploiting loopholes in law." There is already talk of price controls to check the rate of inflation and "unless the government acts faster than it has done — as though it were passing a War Measures Act — the demands for direct intervention to deal with the symptoms of a sick economy will become importunate." When that happens, "the hope of reconstructing free enterprise will be gone, probably forever."

BUSINESS DAY on EPG

In a second editorial on the same page, *BUSINESS DAY* says that the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group (EPG) mission "has survived the SADF raids into neighboring states." "It is excessively cynical, we believe, to suggest that the raids were intended to wreck the EPG mission, even if that is how the matter is perceived abroad. A better explanation is that force was intended — mistakenly, in our view — to serve warning on the ANC of the country's potential for violence, and thus to back up a bargaining position. Most of this, of course, is speculation. But there is enough substance to it to suggest that the current burst of bellicose rhetoric should be muted."

Industrial Development Strategy

In a column on page 6 of *BUSINESS DAY*, industrial editor David Furlonger discusses the government's regional industrial development strategy, noting that "in its eagerness to spread the industrial word to as many parts of SA as possible, government — through the Decentralisation Board — created nearly 50 industrial development points. The result, as government officials now concede, is that public money has been pumped into areas unsuited for industrial development." There is now a growing demand that "piecemeal development be scrapped in favour of full-scale development of a handful of centres with the infrastructure necessary to sustain industrial growth." Another criticism of the government's strategy is that "it encourages inefficiency and poor productivity." Industrialists are offered incentives and rebates on things including transport, electricity, and contribution to salaries which "do little to encourage good housekeeping, nor does the Decentralisation Board's preference for labour-intensive industries encourage high productivity" and there have been questions of abuse of taxpayers' money. However, the Decentralisation Board's acting chairman, Coenie de Villiers, "is confident that development policies are achieving what they set out to do — create jobs in areas where there is a need." "On the question of low productivity and abuse of concessions, he says: 'We carry out inspections and can take steps to increase productivity if we feel this is necessary. Where we have any form of malpractice, we stop concessions immediately and hand the matter over to the police.' "

West Fails Raids' Test

Pretoria *DIE TRANSVALER* in Afrikaans on 22 May says in an editorial on page 12 that "South Africa's pre-emptive on ANC targets in neighboring states was a test of Western integrity" in the sense that the Tokyo summit's recent decision against terrorism has been put to the test of reality. Terrorism remains terrorism whether it occurs in Europe, the United States, or the southern tip of Africa, and the life of an American or Briton is not worth more than that of a South African who dies in acts of terror. Equally unfounded are two arguments used criticizing South Africa. One is the misconception that the ANC is a liberation movement and the other is that "we are increasing the potential for violence and ignoring the negotiation option." Negotiation is important until it becomes clear that it does not lessen the potential of violence. "It is a pity but double standards have caused the West to fail this test as well."

Namibian Government Proposal

Winkhoek *DIE SUIDWESTER* in Afrikaans on 16 May says in an article on page 3 that "a strong central government which would delgate some of its functions to six provinces, the dismantling of racial and ethnic classification, the use of English as the official language, and the use of the name Namibia are the main points of a proposal for a new dispensation submitted by the South-West African National Union and SWAPO-Democrats to the select committee on national unity." The two parties, which compiled the proposals jointly, did not make specific proposals on the number of National Assembly members or the size and composition of the cabinet, but propose that parties form a government on the principle of universal franchise and that no division be made on the grounds of "group or race" origin. The six provinces would each have a governor "who would be appointed by the central government."

DTA-LP Government Proposal

Windhoek *DIE REPUBLIKEIN* in Afrikaans on 16 May says in a front-page article that "broad agreement on the constitutional future of South-West Africa/Namibia was reached yesterday when the Democratic Turbhalle Alliance [DTA] and the Labor Party [LP], following urgent discussion, submitted a joint proposal to the select committee on national unity." This proposal enjoys the support of half of the cabinet of the interim government and makes provision for a unitary state with bicameral legislature. Administration would be delegated to 17 districts, each with a governor. DTA Chairman Dirk Mudge, who made the announcement at a public meeting, expressed appreciation for the cooperation between the alliance and the LP.

Bloom Profiled

On page 13, Johannesburg *THE WEEKLY MAIL* in English for 23-29 May carries a profile of businessman Tony Bloom, who is the chairman of South African Premier Milling and Central News Agency, as well as director of Barclays Bank, South African Breweries, and Liberty Life. Bloom is also a member of the Urban Foundation, the South African Institute of Race Relations, and the Progressive Federal Party. Questioned on his attitude toward "positive discrimination," Bloom says he believes "it (affirmative action) is essential because attitudes here are so hard set. We have a policy of mild or logical affirmative action." However, he adds that "I don't think we have made much progress in this regard in the last three years and this is why we are now focusing on this area." Turning to what he considers to be business' role in the process of change, Bloom says: "I would like to get back to the business of just running the business, but in a situation like we have here one is sucked into politics willy-nilly. We have always had a high political profile, even before it became fashionable to do so." Bloom adds that "we try to run our company in a totally non-discriminatory way." His company has hired ex-political detainees and ignored discriminatory legislation. Bloom, who was one of the businessmen who met with the ANC last year, says "I don't believe with Gavin Relly that we should give up the initiative we started when we visited the ANC in Lusaka last year. I think it was an important initiative and some valuable relationships were formed and, although we differed fundamentally with the ANC in some respects, it was most constructive."

Timing of Raids

In a page 14 article on the SADF raids on Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana, Patrick Laurence writes that President P.W. Botha "will gain support all along the white political spectrum, from the cautiously liberal supporters of the Progressive Federal Party to the rabidly rightist followers of the Conservative and Herstigte Nasionale [Reformed National] Parties and the neofascist Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [Afrikaner Resistance Movement]." "A soon-to-be-published survey of white political opinion, commissioned by the Institute of International Affairs, shows that tough white attitudes on external policy are linked to generally verlig [enlightened] views — for whites — on internal issues." President Botha's "political approach is one which combines tough action on security issues with political concessions in terms of NP [National Party] policy. Thus it was not coincidental that the raids occurred shortly before the scheduled publication of a draft bill providing for a national statutory council." Turning to the reasons for the raids, Laurence says "there can be little doubt" that the raids were at least partly prompted by "growing anxiety in the NP caucus at the burgeoning ultrarightist threat" and the fact that the raids occurr shortly before Foreign Minister Pik Botha was to have addressed a meeting in Pietersburg was not a coincidence. Other factors in the timing of the raids were the U.S. attack on Libya and the upcoming 10th anniversary of the Soweto students uprising on 16 June. The fact that the raids caused relatively little damage may indicate that they were launched mostly to demonstrate that "the SADF could strike as and when it wished, that the attack was primarily devised as a warning, as well as, of course, a manifestation of political kragdadigheid [show of force] for home consumption. A related consideration may have been involved: a bid to convince the ANC and its internal allies in South Africa of the futility of armed rebellion and thus to strengthen the hand of black leaders in favour of negotiation. There is no sign, however, that the strike has induced a swing in favour of negotiation if it means negotiations on Botha's terms."

Raids Help ANC

In an article on page 5, Howard Barrell writes that the ANC suffered little damage from the SADF raids as there were no ANC casualties and no disruption of its activities. Instead, the government's actions have "considerably bolstered the outlawed movement, its sympathy in the Frontline States and its image abroad." "It is becoming clear to the Frontline States that, whether or not they sign a non-aggression pact with Pretoria, whether or not they are sensitive to Pretoria's security concerns, whether or not they are prepared to talk civilly with Pretoria, they still get attacked."

Reasons for Raids

Commenting on the cross-border raids in his "Undercurrent Affairs" column on page 10 of Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 24 May, Rex Gibson writes: "It had seemed to me almost as if the government, demonstrating its strength, has revealed so deep a weakness as to nearly shatter what little, brittle confidence some people had." As for the government's reasons for the raids, if they were timed to coincide with the return of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group to Cape Town, then one conclusion "is irresistable: The Government wanted to sabotage negotiation." If, on the other hand, the raids took place to placate the right wing and occurred shortly before Foreign Minister Pik Botha was to have addressed a meeting in Pietersburg in an attempt to prevent a right-wing disruption of the meeting, "South Africa is being required to pay a huge price so that the Cabinet can score points against Eugene TerreBlanche. What a folly that would be." If, however, the raids took place because the government "felt under immense and immediate pressure, and therefore concluded that these symbolic, almost token raids were worth the diplomatic and economic price," this would imply that "the position is much worse, the danger more immediate, than we think." Another possible explanation for the raids is that the government and security forces chiefs decided that "they needed to send an obvious signal to the ANC, and that they could do the deed without undue international reaction ." If this is the case, "heaven help us again. Do we really want to have our future ordered by people as inept and ill-informed as that?"

Future of Group Areas Act

In his "Political Commentary" on the same page, David Braun writes: "The Group Areas Act received another body blow this week when an opinion poll found that most whites are in favour of easing its prescriptions." If the act were to be scrapped, the government's whole constitutional structure would collapse. However, if the act remains, it will continue to be an obstacle to negotiations, "as even most Nationalist MP's have by now begun to realise. Therefore, we can expect that the President's Council, which has been looking into this matter, will recommend certain adjustments to the law. It may even recommend its repeal, with the proviso that the law's principles are contained in other regulations. Title deeds, may, for example, limit ownership of property. Word has it that the President's Council is likely to suggest that there be local option, so that each town or community could decide on whether it wants integrated residential areas or not."

SUNDAY TIMES on Week's Events

"It was a wek in which we had the Good, the Bad and the Ugly," Johannesburg *SUNDAY TIMES* in English on 25 May says in an editorial on page 26. The "good" was the announcement of the national council, which "truly is progress, and — a few procedural wrinkles apart — richly deserving the support of all leaders, black and white, who seek peaceful rather than violent solutions." The "bad" was the cross-border raids, which "plunged us into international hot water at an especially sensitive time, diplomatically and economically. Why engage in such gratuitous, thump-and-talk belligerance right in the middle of the delicately balanced EPG [Eminent Persons Group] exercise?" Finally there is the "ugly: the introduction of arbitrary, 180-day detention. Will our rulers never learn that policemen who owe no answer to courts of law easily become policemen who abuse their power? That they cannot prescribe to future governments on civil liberties when they, themselves, do not apply such principles?"

SUNDAY TIMES on AWB

In a second editorial on the same page, the *SUNDAY TIMES* says: "The Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging — taking leaves from other books — this week made an NP [National Party] rally in Pietersburg ungovernable." The far right has emerged to show its face and in Petersburg "it was violent and barbarous." While the government has shown itself all too willing to use force, it at least "talks the language of reconciliation and, as hesitant as it may be in its application, it is only along that route that a viable future for our country lies." If the "right-wing dogs" are unleashed, "the consequences will reduce the horrors of a Crossroads and a KwaMashu to a footnote scribble. Nobody, surely, can stand indifferent to this two-pronged attack on reason."

Column on Inadequate Information

In a column on the same page, "Junius" writes: "Bishop Tutu says the press now serves us ill, and we all know that access to what the foreign media says about us can induce shocked recognition as well as amazed disbelief. Even if our TV screens are kept empty of material which might incite violent imitation or reactions, it isn't obvious that we are better off by being denied the material on which to base our political judgments. We won't get away with claims that we didn't know, even if it's true." However, the question of inadequate information is even more important when it comes to the government. "Stories keep surfacing that suggest that our government knows and understands less of what is actually occurring than it should. Officials at one level or in one branch seek to deny others access to their doings. The intelligence the highest level of government gets here, particularly given increased restraints on the press, is mostly gained through and reported by people and groups (police and military) who are participants and hence biased observers." "Even if too much information can blur and confuse decision, wrong information can only worsen it. We cannot afford to be ignorant, for its comforts are temporary and its end is ignominious."

Partition Solution Urged

On the same page, Carel Boshoff contributes a column to the paper's feature "When Apartheid Goes..." Boshoff notes that "as far back as April 1979, I issued a statement in which I observed that the status quo in South Africa could not meet the demands of righteousness unless fundamental social and political change was brought about with appropriate speed." According to Boshoff, there are two directions this change can take: "model A" which calls for a unitary state with common citizenship and one central authority with all people living in "the old British colonial boundaries of 1910" and "model B" which "puts forward the ultimate ideal towards which development in South Africa should be directed — namely that of partition into a commonwealth of sovereign states" based on self-determination with cooperation in matters of common concern. The government "has made a total u-turn from model B to model A," as shown by the 1983 Constitution. However, it would be unrealistic not to recognize that blacks cannot be included in the political system on an equal basis "without obtaining power at the expense of whites, coloureds and Indians. And it would seem most unlikely that agreement will be reached on distribution of rights and power and privileges acceptable to all." Although the government talks of guarantees for minorities and creates the impression that there is "some sort of magic formula" that would prevent domination "it will serve sound reason to realise that such a formula does not exist." "Safeguards for minorities, which aim at frustrating absolute black power, have not worked in the past, they cannot and will not work in the future." "South Africa is ungovernable not because of communists, terrorists or criminals, but because of different nations which live within its borders." The reality of these different nations, one of which is the Afrikaner nation, must be recognised. Only in a partitioned South Africa will the Afrikaner have the right to self-determination. "Partition constitutes a clear alternative to the Constitution of 1983 and a clear alternative to the chaos and conflict of a post-apartheid South Africa. It is an alternative course which holds out the prospect of peace and stability. The existing dispensation holds no such prospect."

Mandela Will Be 'Martyr'

On page 27, the *SUNDAY TIMES* reprints an article written by Douglas Brown on 14 June 1964, 2 months after Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment for treason. Brown began his article by writing: "If he languishes indefinitely in prison, Nelson Mandela will become the most effective martyr in the history of Afrikanism." Mandela's importance, Brown said, is that "he symbolises the exact opposite of the principle of 'separate development'" which the government of Prime Minister Verwoerd was then vigorously promoting.

Raids Attempt To Kill ANC Leaders

Commenting on the cross-border raids in his "Just Jon" column on page 13 of Johannesburg *THE SUNDAY STAR* in English on 25 May, Jon Qwelane questions the timing of the raids, asking: "But why were the strikes timed for just the day after the Commonwealth group left Zambia? Is it not likely that Pretoria, poorly informed as the raids abundantly show, may have thought that by hitting Lusaka they would kill top ANC people including Mr Oliver Tambo, who had just held talks with the group? The raids into Botswana and Zimbabwe, while ostensibly aimed at ANC bases, were very likely a smokescreen to cloud the real intentions to wipe out the ANC leadership." Turning to international reaction to the raids, Qwelane writes: "The time for hypocrisy by the West is over, thanks to Pretoria's raids. All self-respecting nations must now apply total sanctions against apartheid South Africa, at the time expelling all its ambassadors. And let us not hear any howls that black people will suffer. We have suffered all along. It is not as if intensified suffering will make us worse off, because in the end we will be assured of a future free from apartheid, oppression and exploitation."

Steadily Deteriorating Situation

In another page 13 column John d'Oliveira asks: "Will white South Africans not understand that their position is deteriorating by the month and that this deterioration is due almost entirely to the government's failure to come to grips with the country's problems and its failure to win over the vast majority of people?" Too many whites believe that military power is the solution, "that all we have to do is unleash the full might of our security forces and everything will be well again. These people could not touch reality with a 10-foot pole." No one can deny that the situation in the country has gotten worse and it would be foolish to believe that it will get better. "How can so many people pretend that the situation is under control, that the 'moderate' blacks will arise, that the extremists, the agitators and the communists will be defeated and that we will all stand together to greet the dawning of a bright, wonderful new day?" While it is true that there have been more "evolutionary changes in the last eight years or so than most other societies in history" and that "the outside world has given the government little credit for what it has done," "none of this alters the fact that the whites are losing the initiative and that their situation is deteriorating steadily because of the failure of their government in Cape Town. It is a government that is already committed to change, but is apprehensive about its political base, about its hold on power, about the growth of the far right. It also, apparently, misunderstands both the strength and potential of its black opposition."

SUNDAY STAR on Raids

In an editorial on the cross-border raids, *THE SUNDAY STAR* writes that while it is true "escalating terrorism must be sharply dealt with," the cost and effectiveness of countermeasures must be assessed. The military results of the raids appear to be "minimal — no captured arms or documents, no irreparable damage." It has to be recognized that "the ANC, besides being the author of terrorist or guerilla acts, is also a body to which the government must sooner or later talk about reshaping the country's future. Even President Botha has gone some way to concede that. Will the raids not alienate the ANC more, step up its reprisals, make the task of reconciliation still more difficult? Or could they have been — this has been seriously suggested — a show of strength in preparation for some serious peace moves? This means of establishing negotiating positions tends to be two-edged. Great damage can be done on both sides before they are ready to talk. Against the odds, we would really like to believe there is more behind all this than meets the eye, because other developments in the country are not reassuring. The show of strength by the far right at Pietersburg, yet another law conferring emergency powers on the police — these are further signs of a gathering crisis. An overall political solution is more urgent than ever."

ZAMBIA

Kaunda: Support of SA Liberation Groups To Continue

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[Text] Lusaka, May 25 (AFP) — Zambia will continue to support southern African "liberation movements" in spite of attacks from South Africa, President Kenneth Kaunda said at the first ever military investiture ceremony here Sunday.

"As long as apartheid persists in South Africa our freedom and security will always be threatened. In this regard, it is absolutely necessary to remove the source of our anxiety," he told soldiers at Military Headquarters at the Arrakan Barracks.

Eighty officers of the General Staff were awarded medals for gallantry and distinguished service, including General Kingsley Chinkuli, former army commander and now minister of agriculture, General Peter Zuze, a former Air Force commander and now high commissioner to Britain, and Defence Minister General Malimba Masheke.

Saying that the integrity and sovereignty of the country would be defended, President Kaunda told the colourful ceremony attended by members of the ruling party and diplomatic corps that it was Zambia's duty to look after refugees.

"We shall not abandon our duty of looking after those who are running away from South African terrorism. We shall not abandon the African National Congress and South West Africa People's Organisation," he said.

President Kaunda said though South Africa was militarily far ahead of Zambia, he was confident that apartheid would soon see its grave. "I am not implying that our soldiers will march to Pretoria. I have no illusion about the gravity of the situation. We face a strong and ruthless enemy," he said. "But history tells us that David, a small and frail man, defeated Goliath, who was a very big and confident man."

President Kaunda, who is also chairman of the Frontline States, the six-nation grouping of southern African countries, called for the maintenance of discipline in the Armed Forces saying "our cause is just." "The defence forces through the party and government should be the backbone of discipline and unity in the country," he said.

ZIMBABWE

'Several' More Detained in Investigation of Raids

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[Text] The Zimbabwean news agency ZIANA reports that several more people have been arrested and detained since the prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, announced earlier this week that four people had been arrested after the attack on ANC targets in Harare by the SADF.

A Zimbabwean Government statement said the investigations were continuing.

Two British Engineers Detained

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[Text] Harare, May 26, SAPA — Two British expatriate engineers at Hwange power station are the latest people to be detained by Zimbabwe security men in connection with the SADF raid on Harare a week ago. Mr Roy Lewis and Mr Allan Partitt were arrested at Harare's Jameson Hotel at the weekend and taken to Bulawayo.

Lawyers and members of the British High Commission are trying to find the reasons behind the action which comes in the wake of the blowing up of ANC offices and a house here in the early hours of May 19. It is believed that one of the detained Britons may have been on the same flight to Bulawayo that the SADF raiders took to Bulwawyo.

A white Zimbabwean woman tourist officer, Miss Jane Watson, who was detained last week at Victoria Falls has now been released. Also free after questioning were Mr Craig Friend, Mr Eddie Holloway, Mr Constantin Psosa, Mr Brendan Viljoen and Mr Paul Brenmer, legal sources in Bulawayo confirmed.

The Zimbabwe Central Intelligence Organization and security police appeared to be detaining anyone suspected of having any knowledge of the movements of the South Africans who flew to Bulawayo from Victoria Falls after entering the country from SWA/Namibia. The SADF group then hired vehicles in Bulawayo, drove to Harare for the raid and escaped via a remote bush airstrip in the Mgezi National Park in central Zimbabwe.

Police have not yet released the first three people detained in connection with the raids: Bulawayo businessman Mr Richard Woodcroft, his associate Mr Albert Dube, and the friend with whom Mr Woodcroft was living, Mr Calum Anderson. Mr Woodcroft, an import-export dealer, is alleged to have helped the South Africans to hire the vehicles most of which were found abandoned at Mgezi. The SADF reportedly posed as safari operators.